

THE WORLD'S NO.1 FOR TOY SOLDIERS & MODEL FIGURES

# TOY SOLDIER COLLECTOR

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## & HISTORICAL FIGURES



**HISTORY**

**Battle of the Bulge  
80th Anniversary**

ISSN 2631-3073



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Extravaganza**

**Britains & Bourbon  
in Kentucky**

**Sheffield Miniatures'  
Scenic Wonders**

**Canada's Fort  
Henry Guard**

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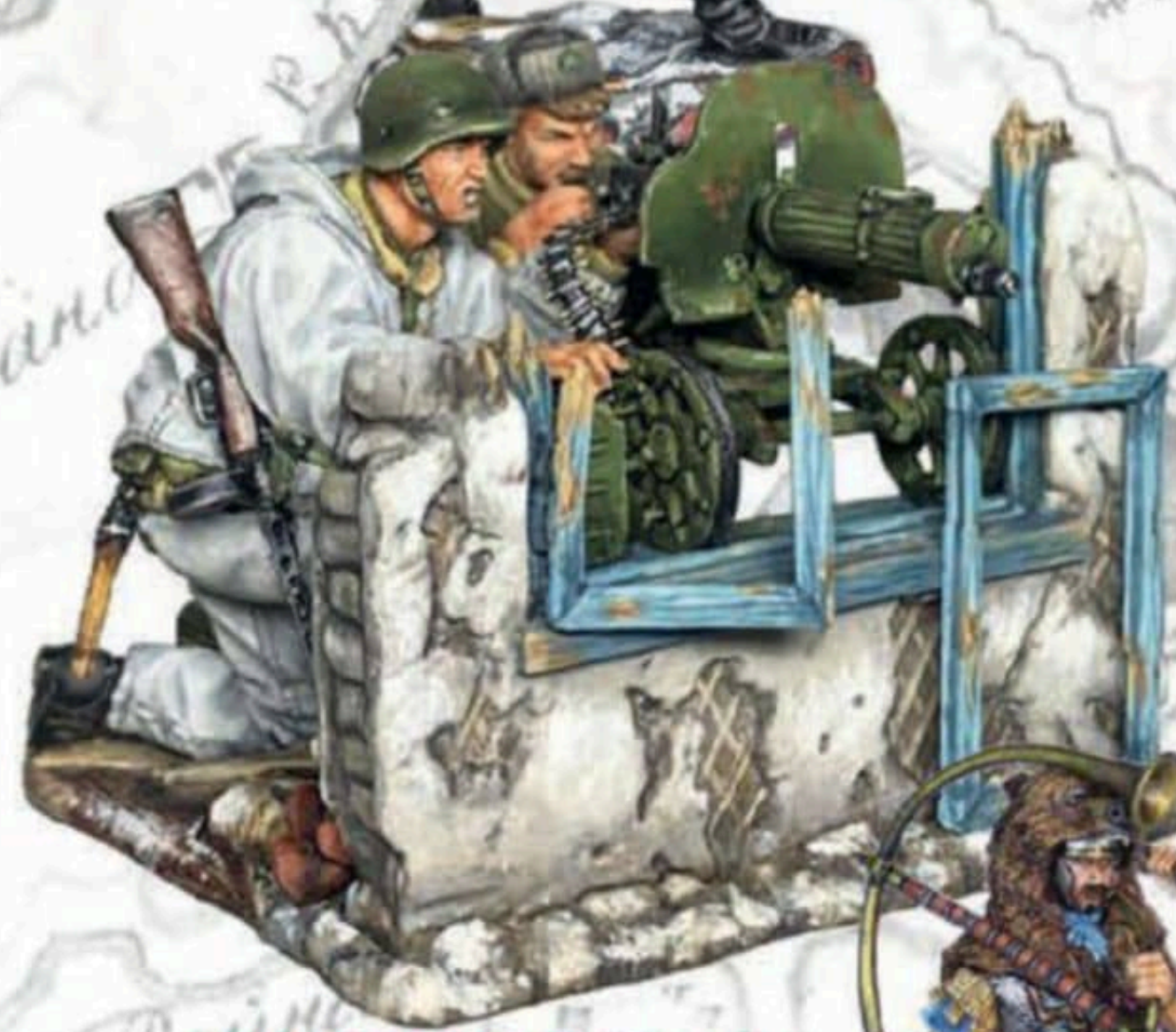
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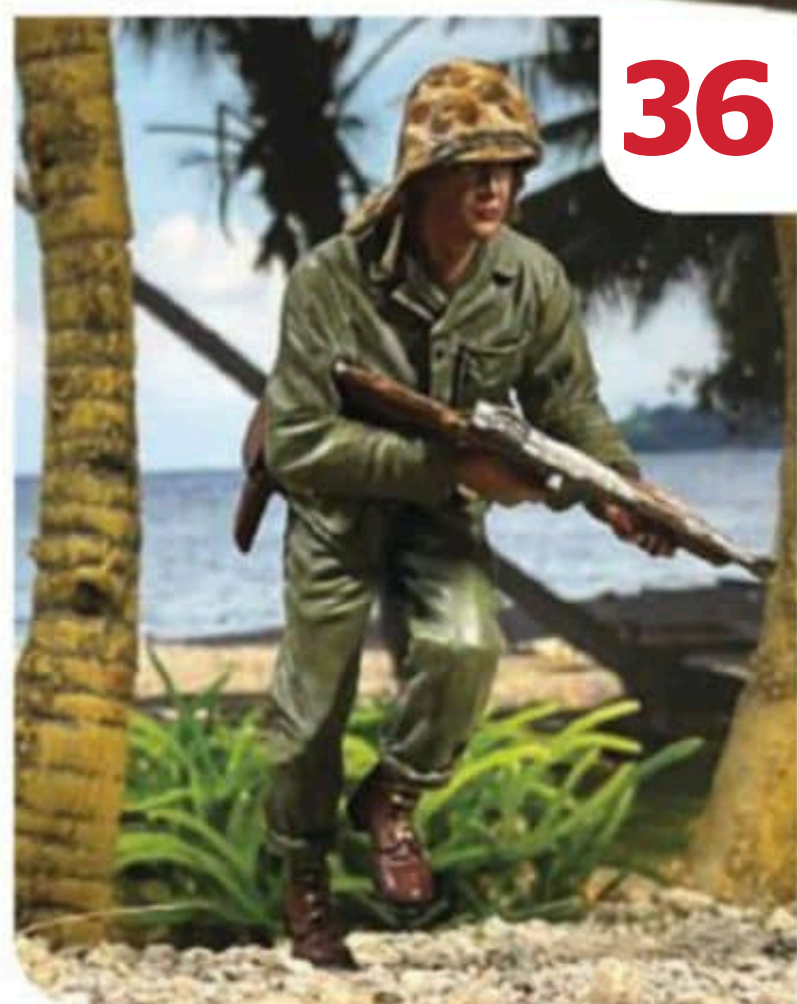
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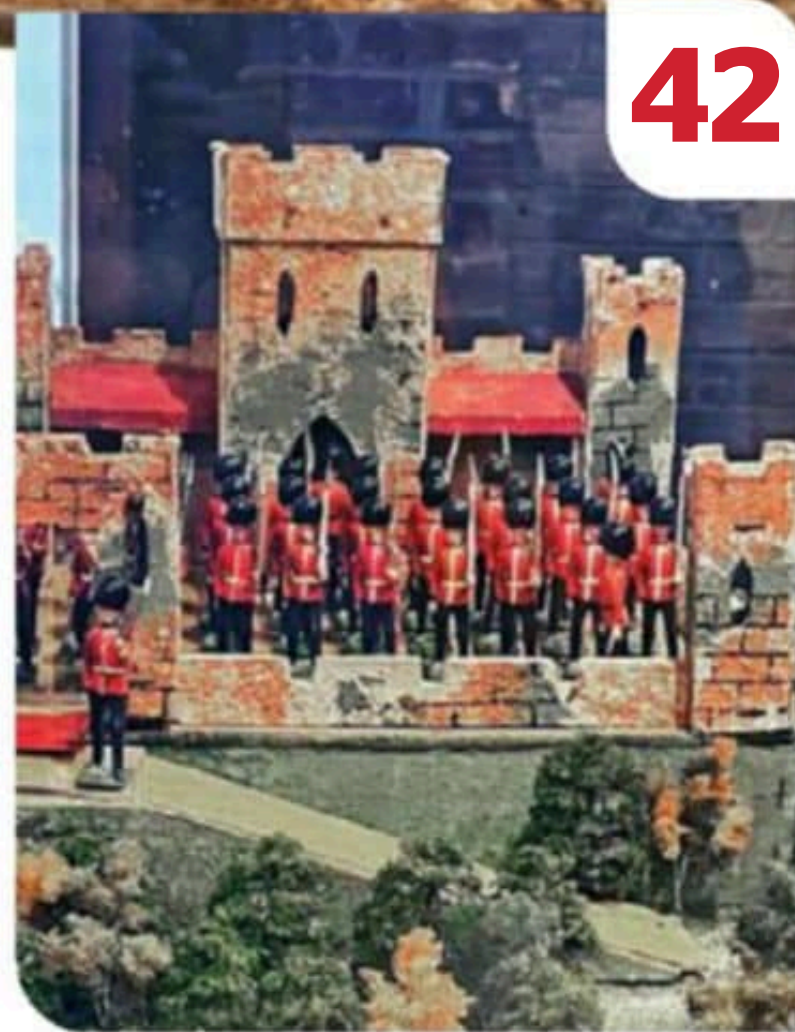
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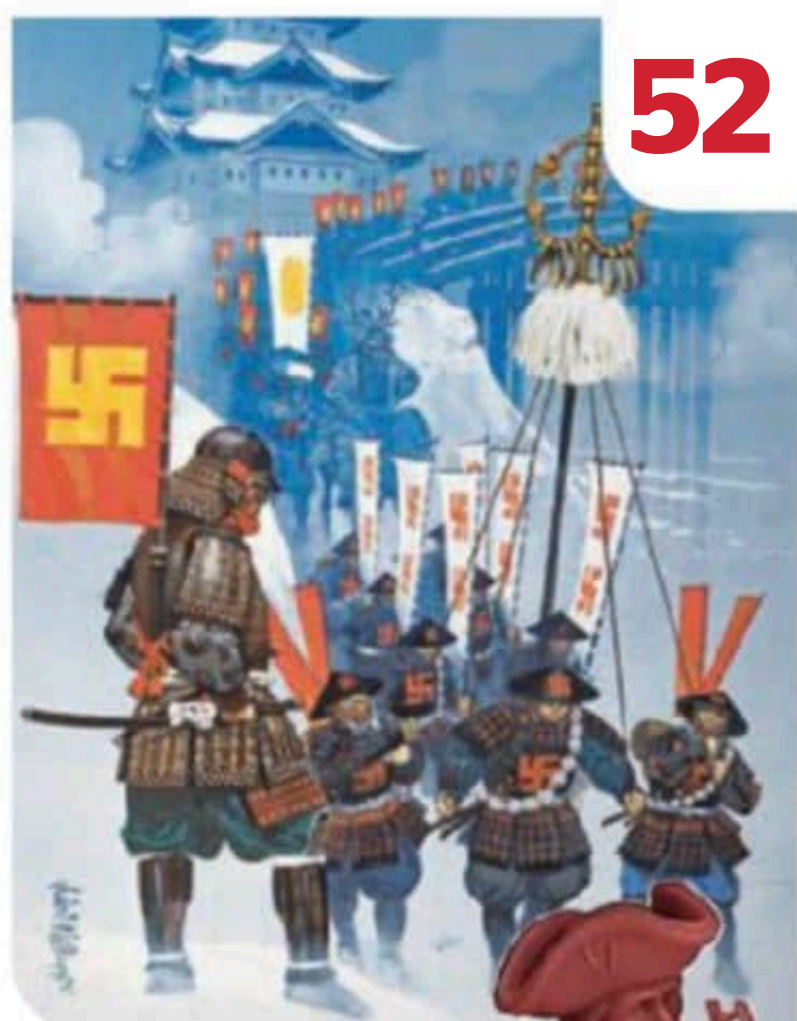
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# Welcome

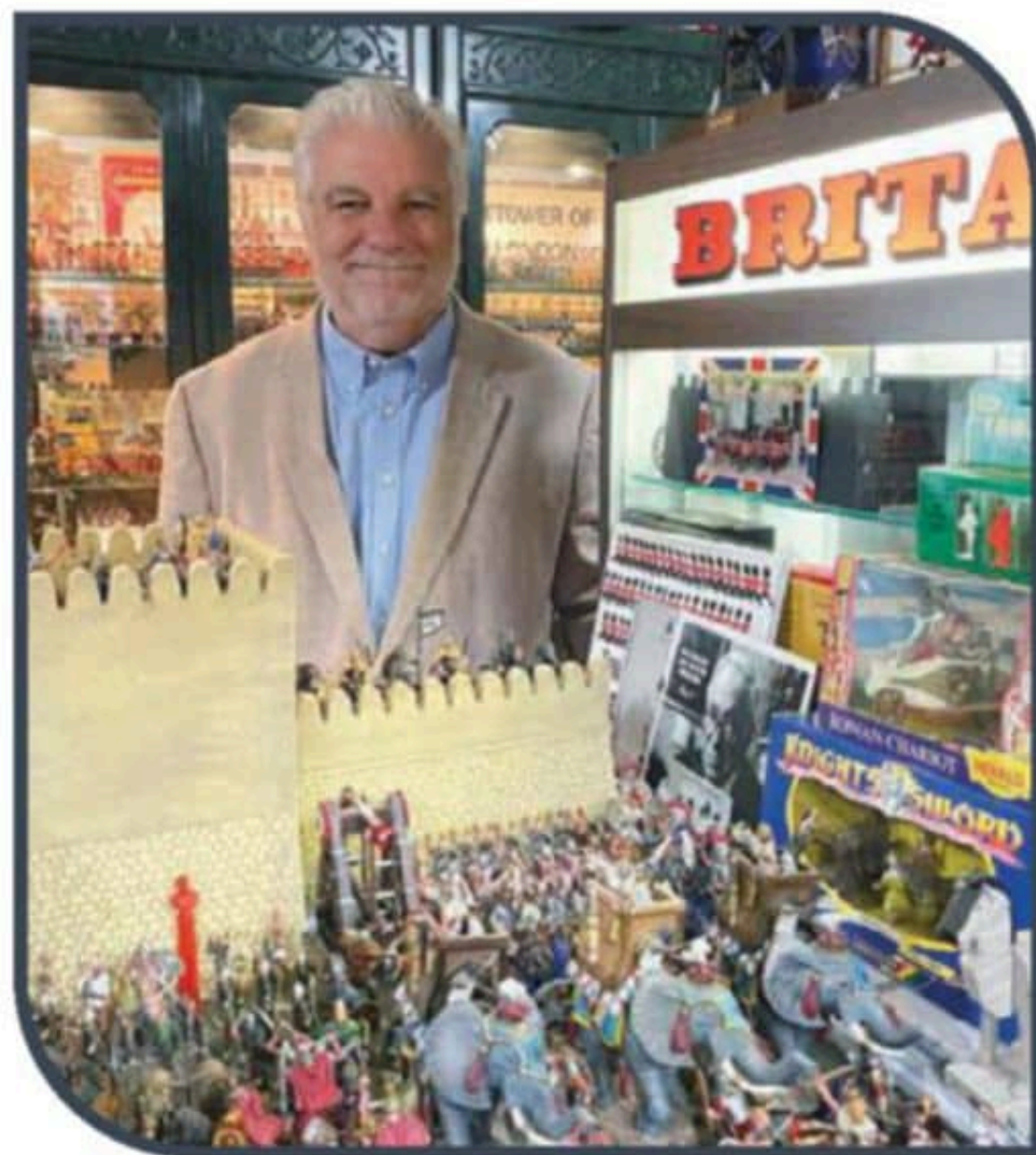
**Welcome to the latest issue of the world's No. 1 magazine for hobbyists who share a collective passion for all types of toy soldiers and historical figures.**

Contributing Editor George Phillips has penned a historical feature commemorating the 80th anniversary of World War II's wintry Battle of the Bulge from Nazi Germany launching its last desperate surprise offensive on the Western Front in December 1944 to its ultimate failure the following month. In addition, George shines a spotlight on UK scenic products maker Sheffield Miniatures and its proprietor Lee Smithson.

Yours truly delivers a report on the Chicagoland Toy Soldier Show staged on Sunday, 24 September, and preshow room trading at the host hotel. It was wonderful for me to see so many friends, dealers and readers from all over the USA and around the globe.

Instead of flying straight home the Monday morning after the show as usual, I went on a 'business trip' by hopping in my buddy Clyde Cocke's car. We drove about five hours southward to Louisville, Kentucky, to enjoy the staff's gracious hospitality at the Frazier History Museum. It is home to the amazing Charles W. Stewart Historic Miniatures Collection. The museum also hosts the official Kentucky Bourbon Trail Welcome Center. Clyde and I are both toy soldier collectors and bourbon lovers, so we enjoyed exploring the museum as well as visiting distilleries in downtown Louisville and the state capital Frankfort during our brief stay. I have a hunch we shall return!

Thanks to my longtime membership in Canada's Ontario Model Soldier Society (OMSS), wonderful friendships I've made through the years and recent YouTube videos about my collection produced by Mark Silverthorn, I have a bit of a reputation for being a nut about collecting figures by various makers depicting the Fort Henry Guard. This inspired fellow OMSS members Brendan Hogan and Scott Paget to share fascinating peeks at their own collections based on the historic



fort in Kingston, Ontario. I salute them both, but I don't think they've topped me yet. Ha!

Collector Colin Luxford details how he converted figures to recreate Japanese history in miniature in an article titled 'The Samurai and the Swastika.' Retired US Army General Raymond E. Bell Jr., details how he has collected and modelled various types of tank companies through the years to reinforce his toy soldiers. Ray has one of the largest and most thoroughly documented collections that I have ever had the privilege of visiting. His detailed recordkeeping complete with photos puts me to shame.

UK collector Mark Norris, who is known for his 'Man of TIN' blog, recounts how examples of his toy soldier restorations done for his own pleasure were treated as works of art in a recent London exhibition. Elsewhere, toy soldier expert James Opie reminisces about his hobby show experiences through the years in this edition's instalment of his 'Talking Toy Soldiers' regular feature.

As usual, there is a whole lot more in store in this edition, so please start turning the pages and enjoy. And, as always, happy collecting!

All the best,

*Stuart*

**Stuart A. Hessney**  
Editor

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# NOTICEBOARD

## The latest news from across the hobby

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### Magazine Cartoonist Doug Dearth Dies

By Stuart A. Hessney

It is my extremely sad duty to report that my longtime American buddy Doug Dearth died in Ohio after a terribly long and valiant battle with cancer. Doug passed away at 17:20 on Thursday, 1 November, with his W. Britain Model Figures colleagues and close friends Ericka and Ken Osen and Ted Deddens at his side.

Ken told me, "Ericka, Ted and I were with Doug until the end and I can assure you that he passed as peacefully as anyone could. We have all watched him decline with the illness and it has been pretty hard to witness."

I feel extremely fortunate to have been friends with Doug for many years. The first time we met in person was when he very graciously hosted me overnight at his Michigan home while I was traveling to the Detroit area to attend a hobby show in January 2009. He worked at Michigan Toy Soldier Company at that time.

Doug was a fellow toy soldier enthusiast and history buff whose wonderful collections included both World War I militaria and whimsical plastic Disneykin figures. We bonded over our mutual enjoyment of extra dry and extra dirty gin martinis with extra olives.

Doug was a partner in the former Old Northwest Trading Co., produced his own Order of Battle toy soldier items for a while, was an American Civil War era competitive shooter and loved golfing. In addition, he was a very talented painter with a wonderful sense of humour that enlivened all his artwork including historical themes.

Doug worked for W. Britain for a number of years until passing away. He applied his webmaster, creativity and graphic arts skills to designing catalogues and other publications, doing photography, producing promotional YouTube videos with touches of humour and more for the toy soldier brand.

My readers around the globe would be most familiar with Doug because he dreamed up hobby-themed cartoons for both *Toy Soldier & Model Figure* and then *Toy Soldier Collector & Historical Figures* magazines



**Doug Dearth with his artwork inspired by the World War II movie *Kelly's Heroes* (1970) at a past US toy soldier show.**

beginning in 2013. As a salute to Doug, I plan to keep publishing examples of his creative cartoons from my archives because many readers might not have seen them before and they are uniformly funny in his signature style.

The last time I saw Doug and was able to tell him in person that I love him was at September's Chicagoland Toy Soldier Show that I've covered elsewhere in this edition.

Ken recounted, "The Chicago show was his last real joy and, as he and I discussed, something close to normal for him that he did not want to miss. He was able to golf on the way to and from the event, share his work and chat with friends at the show. He knew that it would probably be his last time."

"He will be missed by more people than he knew," Ken added.

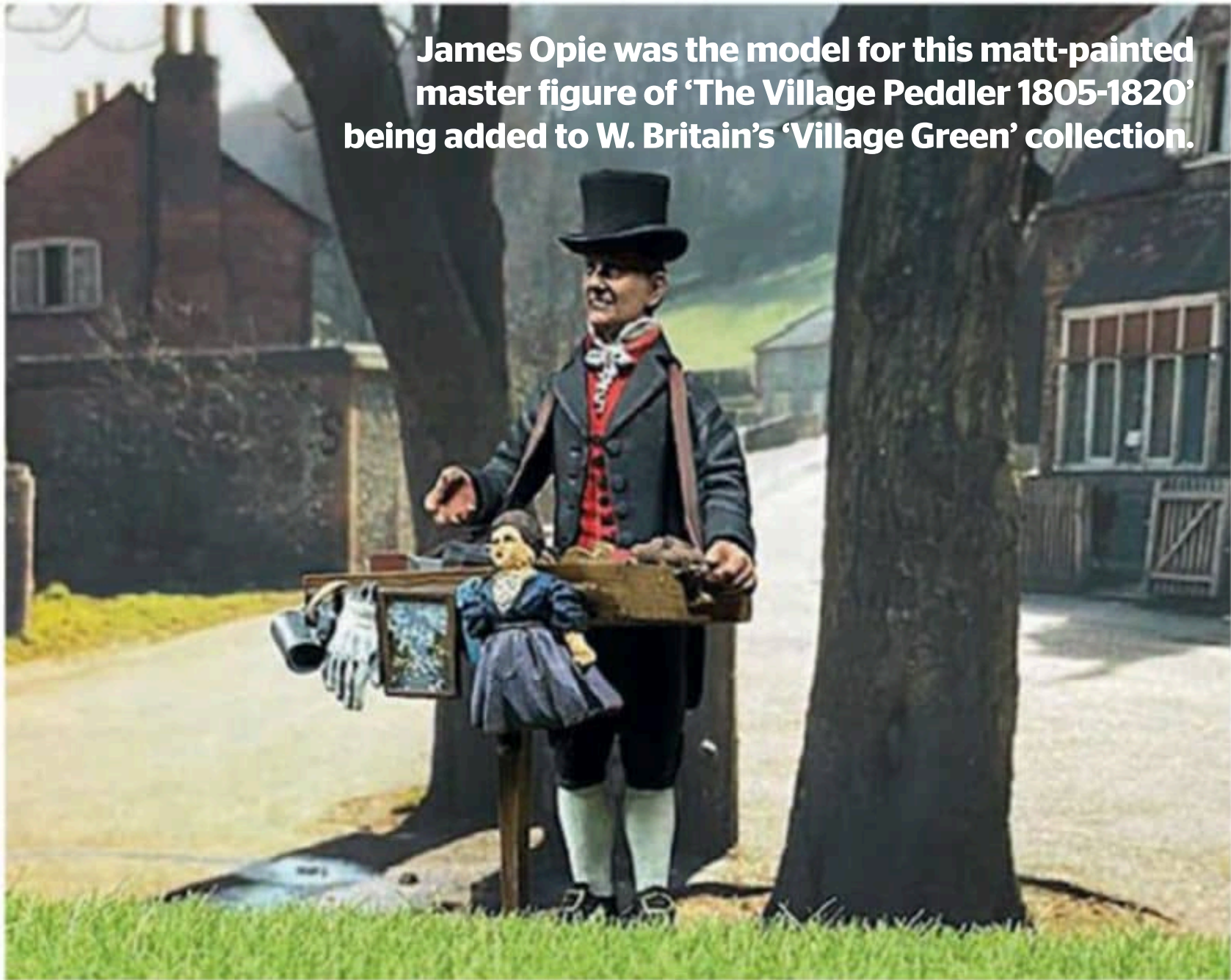
Doug passed away on the exact same date as my editorial deadline for this edition so I didn't know funeral arrangements and so on at this juncture. Consequently, when I began writing these lines, I simply meant to keep this article brief to simply get the word out quickly but my heart feels heavy and I got carried away with reflections. Still, I intend do a proper obituary if more details become available later in conjunction with a salute to Doug.



**World War I British Rolls-Royce armoured car from Doug Dearth's own Order of Battle range.**

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James Opie was the model for this matt-painted master figure of 'The Village Peddler 1805-1820' being added to W. Britain's 'Village Green' collection.

## W. Britain Plans Figures Of James Opie & Editor

By Stuart A. Hessney

I've been keeping a very big little secret. W. Britain Model Figures plans to release matt-painted figures modelled after James Opie and yours truly. My intention was to keep this exciting news quiet until the official releases when we could actually hold our 1/30-scale selves in our hands. But word started getting out at September's Chicagoland Toy Soldier Show, so now you dear readers know too!

### Village Peddler

James was editor of the Military and Aviation Book Society for decades. In addition, he has prepared catalogues for toy soldier auctions for more than 45 years, currently at UK-based C&T Auctioneers. James also serves on the National Committee of the British Model Soldier Society. He pens the informative 'Talking Toy Soldiers' regular feature for *TSC&HF*, but he is best known in our hobby for sharing his enthusiasm, research and vast knowledge in many leading books about toy soldiers. When it comes to our hobby, James is a rockstar!

The impetuous for W. Britain producing a figure of James stemmed from the December 2023 London Toy Soldier & Historical Figures Show, sponsored by this magazine's parent company Guideline Publications. James invited Ken and Ericka Osen of W. Britain and Canadian collector Scott Paget to tea at his home afterward. During their visit the Osens asked James to do an article on the Queen Mary's Dolls House toy soldiers for *The Standard*, the exclusive journal of the W. Britain Collectors' Club.

James related, "They also honoured me by letting me choose a character to play in their 'Village Green' collection. I chose to be the 'Peddler'."

The 'Village Green' collection features figures of civilians and scenic items inspired by the Regency and Federal eras (1790-1818) as well as the mid-nineteenth century around the times of the Crimean War and the American Civil War. The stylish and smiling 'Village Peddler 1805-1820' figure modelled after James wears a top hat and holds a tray full of goods including what else but toys.

## ACW Artilleryman

Unlike James, I had no choice but I couldn't be happier.

Last year my wife Sally and I visited the ACW battlefield in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. We had been there before, but while driving down Monument Avenue we came across a memorial we hadn't spotted previously honouring the Union Army's Battery B, 1st New York Light Artillery, Artillery Brigade, 2nd Corps. It was mustered into service on 31 August, 1861, and



All thanks to Ken Osen, the forthcoming 'Union Light Artillery Driver 1861-1865' figure was modelled after Stuart A. Hessney.

participated in 78 days of battle before it was mustered out of service on 18 June 1865. We are both interested in history but we had never heard of this unit and we were very surprised to learn it was raised in Onondaga County in Baldwinsville: Sally's hometown!

Afterward I shared our discovery with Ken during an email chat. Soon after he asked for 360-degree headshots of me. Before I knew it, he had sculpted and painted a standing figure of me portraying a bearded Union light artillery driver holding a saddle with a valise on it along with a horse blanket draped

over his arm. The 'Union Light Artillery Driver 1861-1865' wears a leg guard too.

### Life Imitates Art

James and I are both lifetime collectors deeply immersed in enjoying this hobby, so I think it's safe to say for both of us what a tremendous thrill and honour it is to be modelled in miniature by none other than the venerable Britains brand name synonymous with toy soldiers!



Gettysburg memorial to a Union Army light artillery unit raised in Baldwinsville, New York.



Cartoon by Doug Dearth

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# NEW RELEASES

Our top-shelf team delivers news of new painted metal figures arriving on dealers' and collectors' shelves.

## First Legion Ltd. Various New Releases

Reviewed by Stuart A. Hessney

Argh mateys! This time I have a slew of freshly minted figures from First Legion Ltd. to survey including a spectacular Ancient war elephant set, scurvy pirates of the Caribbean and opposing forces for recreating combat along World War II's Eastern Front. As usual, these 60mm items have been expertly sculpted

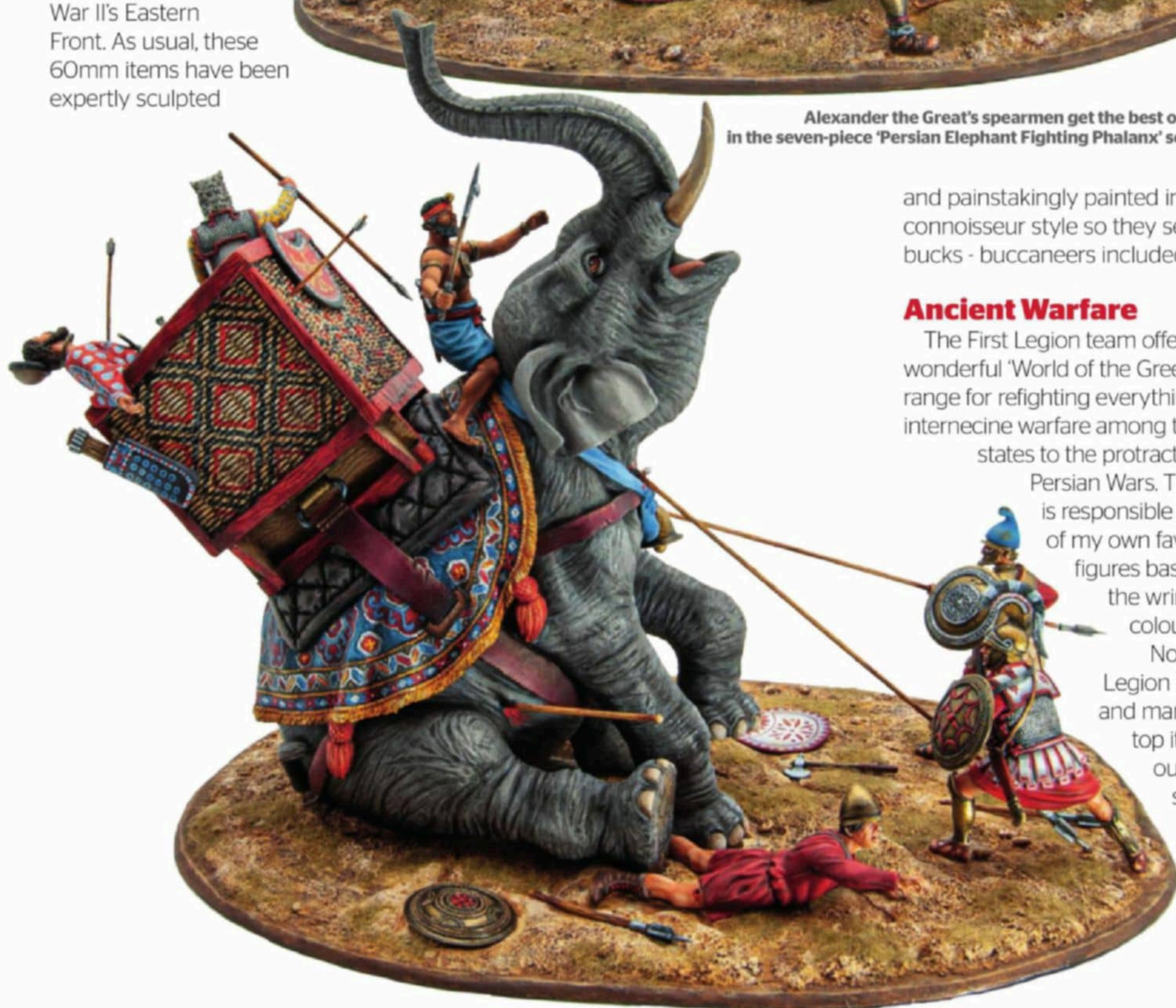


Alexander the Great's spearmen get the best of a might beast in the seven-piece 'Persian Elephant Fighting Phalanx' set (ref. AG069).

and painstakingly painted in the matt connoisseur style so they sell for big bucks - buccaneers included.

### Ancient Warfare

The First Legion team offers a wonderful 'World of the Greeks' range for refighting everything from internecine warfare among the city states to the protracted Greco-Persian Wars. This maker is responsible for many of my own favourite figures based on all the wrinkles in that colourful history. Now First Legion has gone and managed to top itself with an outstanding seven-piece set listed as 'Persian







**'Pirate Standing Firing' (ref. PIRO21).**



**'Pirate Standing Loading' (ref. PIRO22).**



**'Turkish Pirate' (ref. PIR20).**

Elephant Fighting Phalanx' (ref. AGO69). The vignette depicts some of Macedonian King Alexander the Great's courageous and determined phalanx spearmen on foot managing to get the best of an enormous but bloodied and reeling Asian war elephant crewed by mahout and two fighters in the howdah. This ponderous pachyderm is going down!

At the time of this writing, the price was not set for this limited edition of 100 sets, but wow!

## Pirate Second Wave

Nine neat new items have been added to this maker's adventurous and colourful new range of pirates that I debuted last time in *TSC&HF* issue 119. Though pirates have prowled the seas from Ancient times to the present day, First Legion is concentrating on the Golden Age of Piracy between the 1600s and 1700s when corsairs carved out a significant role in the histories of the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans.

So far, the maker has focused on pirates of the Caribbean who enjoyed their heyday between about 1660 to 1688 by preying on galleons plying trade and supply routes between Spain's dominions in the New World and Europe. This is fertile ground because real pirates such as the ruthless Edward Teach, better known as Blackbeard, has been featured in movies, television programmes and books along with the likes of Jack Rackham, Henry Morgan and Captain Kidd. First Legion is also delving into fictional pirates by basing some figures on inspirations such as Scottish author Robert Louis Stevenson's adventure novel *Treasure Island*, which was serialized before being first published as a book in 1883.

The centrepiece of the latest onslaught is a 'Naval 9lb Cannon' (ref. PIRO18) that can be crewed by gunners with either a 'Rammer' (ref. PIRO15), 'Igniter' (ref. PIRO16) or 'Charge' (ref. PIRO17).

Also new is a stern 'Pirate Captain' (ref. PIRO19), a

grim 'Turkish Pirate' (ref. PIR20) charging with his cutlass in hand and swabs with muskets either 'Standing Firing' (ref. PIRO21) or 'Standing Loading' (ref. PIRO22).

For a woman's touch, the maker has moulded a comely 'Young Female Pirate' (ref. PIRO23) with her hands on her hips and a flintlock pistol tucked in her belt.

I think it's a neat touch how all these pirates' bases look like the wooden deck of a ship. All the figures and the cannon to boot are sold singly for \$84.95 US.



**'Pirate Captain' (ref. PIRO19).**

The makings of a buccaneer gun crew sold separately include a 'Naval 9lb Cannon' (ref. PIRO18) crewed by pirates holding a 'Rammer' (ref. PIRO15), 'Igniter' (ref. PIRO16) and 'Charge' (ref. PIRO17).

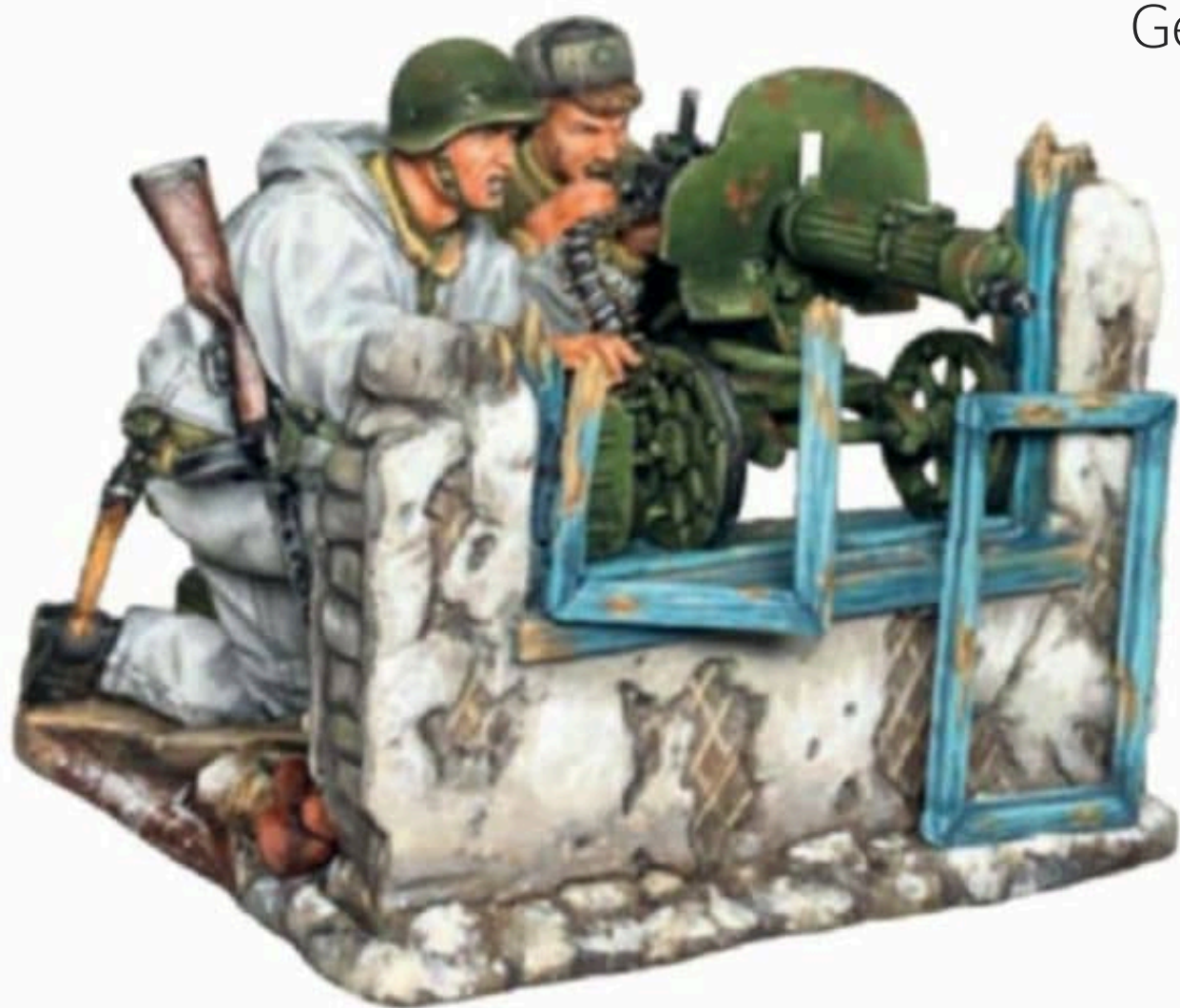


**'Young Female Pirate' (ref. PIRO23).**





**Russian Maxim MG Team in Destroyed Kharkov House' (ref. KHA015).**



**Russian Standing Firing Mosin-Nagant' bolt-action rifle (ref. KHA013).**



## Winter Is Coming

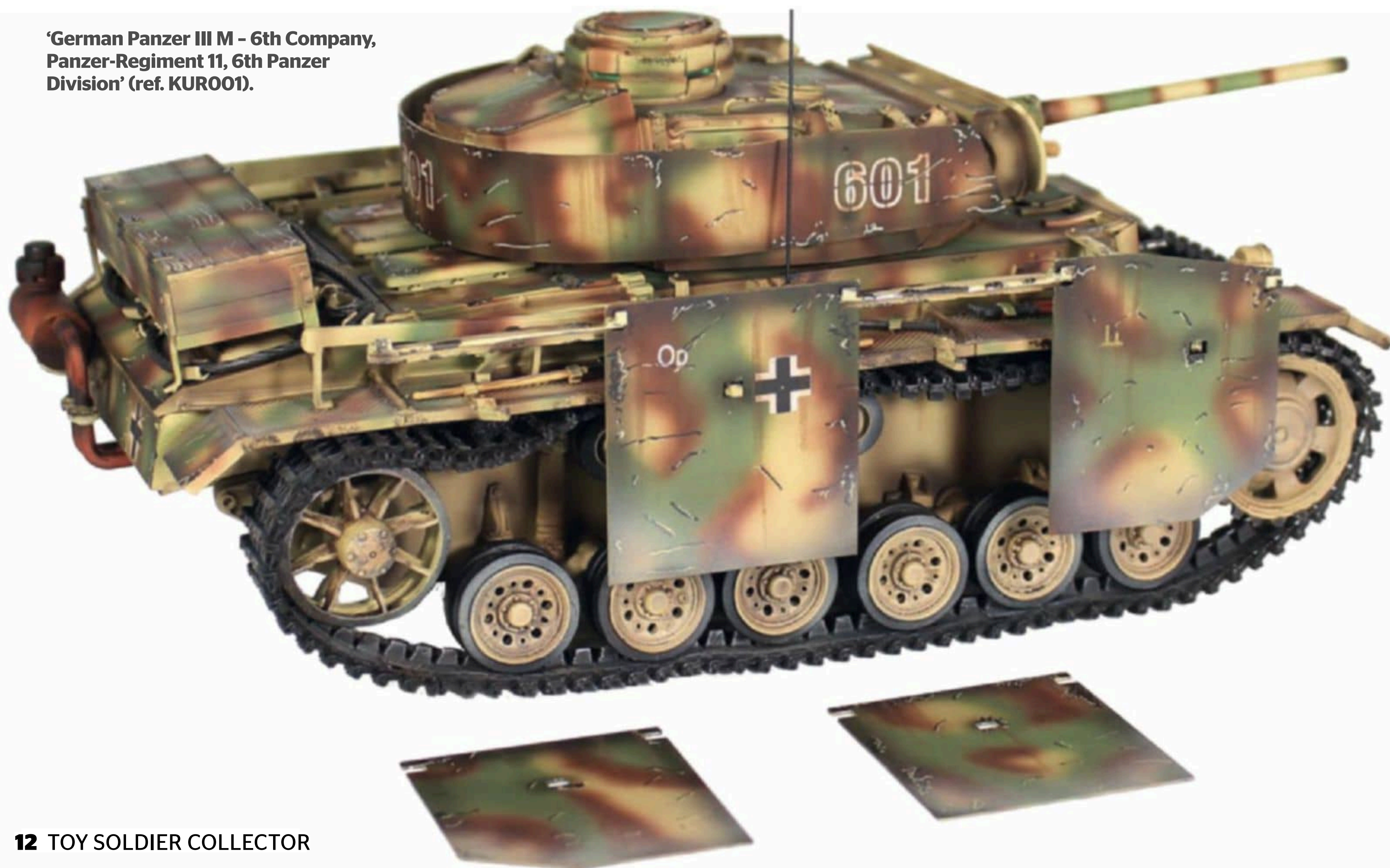
First Legion has issued eight new Russian infantry releases to oppose German Waffen SS forces spotlighted last time in issue 119 which marked the debut of a new range based on World War II's pivotal Third Battle of Kharkiv. It was fought in severe wintry conditions in Ukraine between 19 February and 15 March 1943.

A shiver just ran up and down my spine because I am writing these lines just a few days after my wife Sally and I decided to go on a fall foliage tour on Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day on Monday, 14 October, by driving 90 miles north to stay overnight in Lake Placid, New York, in the Adirondack Mountains. It was a bone-chilling experience because the closer we got to Lake Placid, the more it snowed the entire time we were there. We were both born in Upstate New York and have spent most of lives here, but we were still amazed and delighted to encounter snow (that we didn't have to shovel!) so early. I suppose it's no coincidence how weather conditions like these must have played a role in how the small village of 2,205 souls was chosen to host the world for the Winter Olympics in both 1932 and 1980. Anyhow, I digress but please give me a second while I put a sweater on.

The story behind these military miniatures revolves around how the Soviet Red Army launched an offensive aimed at kicking out German Army Group South forces occupying the strategic city. The Russians made advances initially but were caught off guard when the Germans launched a counteroffensive spearheaded by the newly formed II SS Panzer Korps. After some of the war's most brutal house-to-house fighting and severest casualties, the counterstrike led to the Nazis recapturing Kharkiv and Belgorod. It would be their final major victory on the Eastern Front.

Lively and nicely varied Russian releases priced at \$84.95 apiece include an 'Officer with TT Pistol' (ref. KHA009), 'Sergeant with Grenade and PPSH-41' submachine gun (ref. KHA010) and soldiers either 'Kneeling Firing PPSH-41' (ref. KHA011), 'Running with SVT-40' semiautomatic rifle (ref. KHA012) or 'Standing Firing Mosin-Nagant' bolt-action rifle (ref. KHA013). A kneeling 'Radio Operator with Mosin' (ref. KHA014) sells for \$109.95 while a Russian 'Advancing with PTRD AT Rifle' (ref. KHA015) to hunt enemy armour costs \$89.95. The most evocative offering of all is a storytelling set titled 'Russian Maxim MG Team in Destroyed Kharkov House' (ref. KHA015) priced at \$259.95. All those Russians are bundled up for wintertime combat in individualised ways.

**'German Panzer III M - 6th Company, Panzer-Regiment 11, 6th Panzer Division' (ref. KUR001).**







**'Russian Sergeant with Grenade and PPSH-41' submachine gun (ref. KHA010).**



**'Russian Radio Operator with Mosin' (ref. KHA014).**



**'Russian Running with SVT-40' semiautomatic rifle (ref. KHA012)**



**'Russian T34/85 2nd Guards Tank Army - Minsk '44' (ref. LWG045).**



**'Russian 'Kneeling Firing PPSH-41' (ref. KHA011).**



**'Russian Advancing with PTRD AT Rifle' (ref. KHA015).**

## Armour Releases

An authentic tank model titled 'Russian T34/85 2nd Guards Tank Army - Minsk '44' (ref. LWG045) is designed to recreate the Red Army's victory in the Minsk Offensive from 29 June to 4 July 1944. It included the liberation of the capital city of Belarus and the rapid destruction of most of Germany's Army Group Centre.

The war's Operation Citadel on the Eastern Front, including July's titanic tank Battle of Kursk, is being marked by the release of a realistic 'German Panzer III M - 6th Company, Panzer-Regiment 11, 6th Panzer Division' (ref. KURO01) of the III Panzer Corps. It features configurable *Schürzen* armoured side skirts.

Each of these realistic mixed-media tanks retails for \$399.95. Their main gun barrels can be raised or lowered, hatches open and the turrets revolve. Crew figures are sold separately.

Argh mateys! What a very cool batch of varied stuff this is!

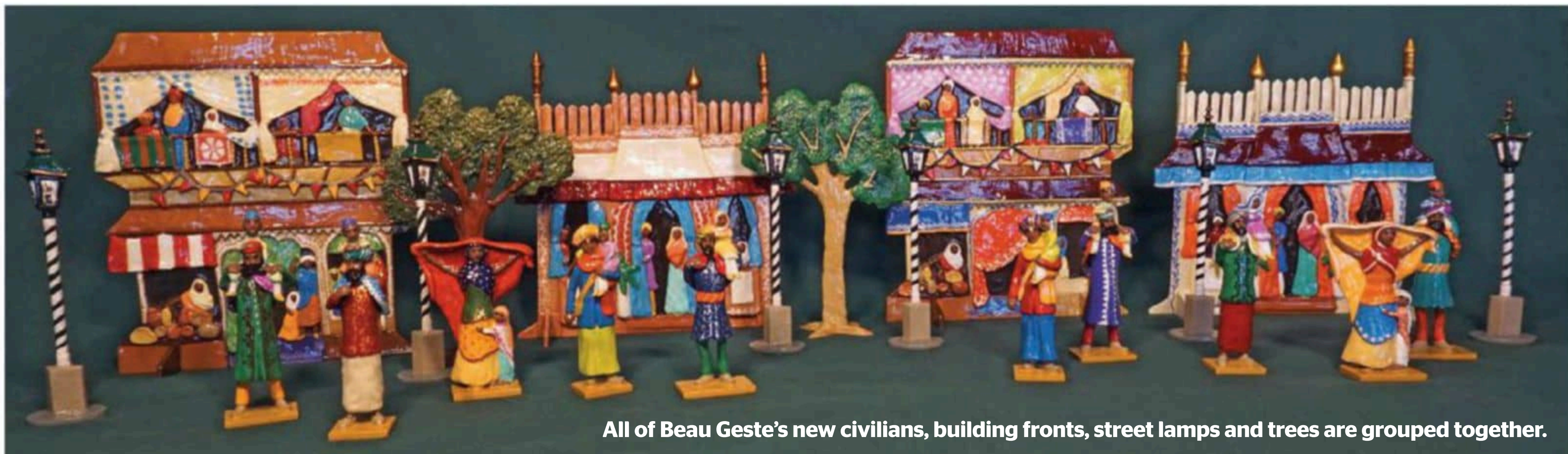


**'Russian Officer with TT Pistol' (ref. KHA009)**

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All of Beau Geste's new civilians, building fronts, street lamps and trees are grouped together.

## Beau Geste Various New Releases

Reviewed by Stuart A. Hessney

I am a toy soldier collector at heart, so the greatest privilege I've enjoyed while working as a magazine editor for the past 21 years has been getting to know so many fellow enthusiasts, dealers and manufacturers from around the world. Thanks to snail mail, email, telephone calls and my travels to Britain, Canada and around the USA, I've met and stayed in contact with lots of great people and enjoyed seeing many of them in person.

One good case in point is my longtime good friend Ana Donzino of Beau Geste. Under normal circumstances it's highly unlikely an American bum like me would ever get to even meet an Argentinian artist like her. But I've been fortunate enough to have visited with her and her late husband Daniel in person at the Chicago Toy Soldier Show many times. Also, Ana and I regularly chat via email about our families and what we've been up to such as her latest travels to London to research the 1903 Delhi Durbar at the British Library soon followed by a trip to India.

### Civilians & Scenery

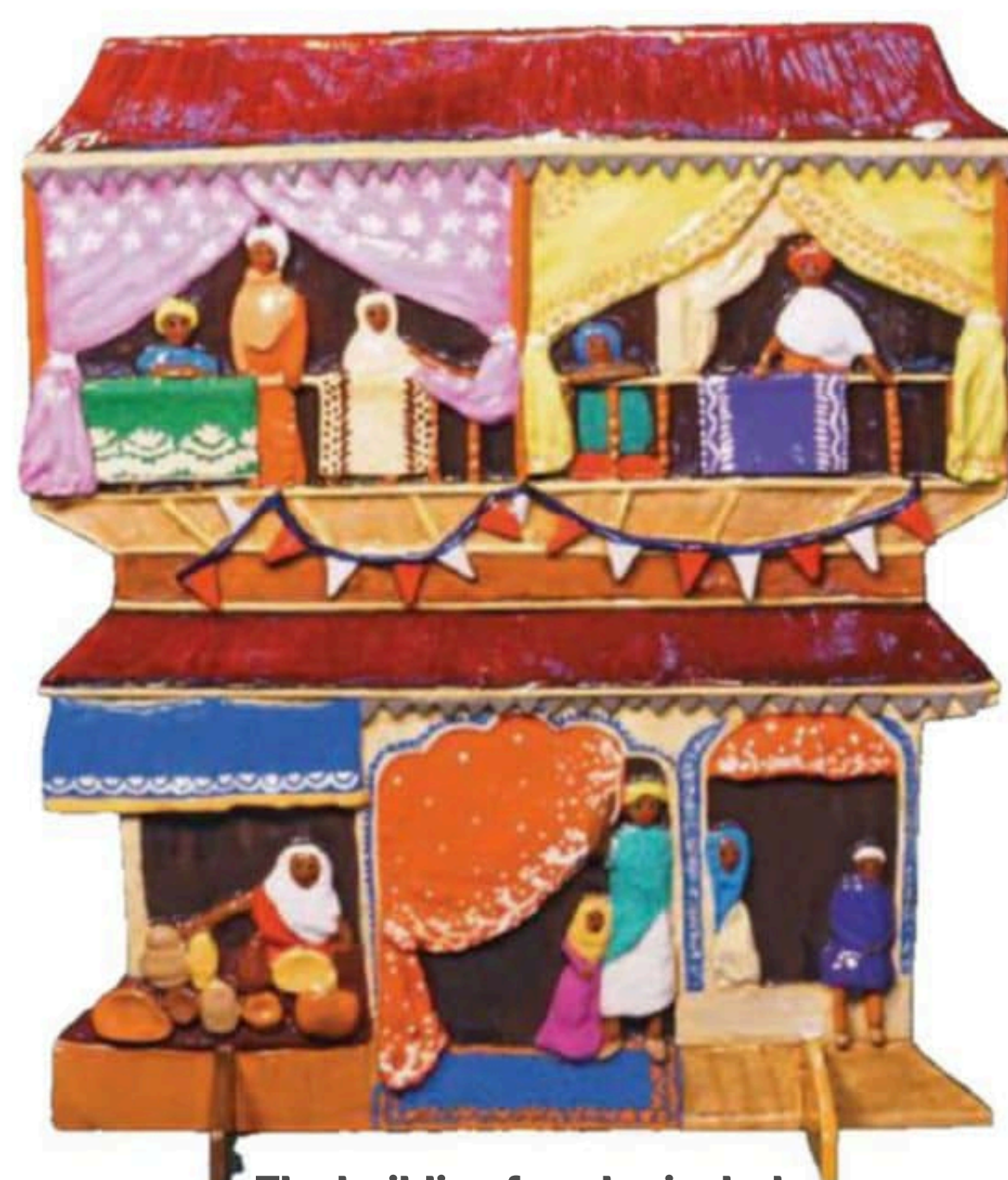
I reckon that I am feeling reflective at the moment because Ana has amazed me yet again by sharing details of a slew of 60mm releases perfect for enhancing displays of her beautifully modelled and painted state elephants that recreate the panoramic event's main procession.

Beau Geste has done wonderful sets of spectators before, including both Indian and European civilians with some armed with cameras. But now she has taken inspiration from photos found at the British Library to craft two varied \$340 sets of colourful Indian 'Spectators with Children, Delhi Durbar 1903' (refs. 528 or 529). The kids either sit on their dad's shoulders, are cradled in an adult's arms or enjoy some shade provided by their mom's *dupattā*, a long shawl-like scarf.

Also new are four highly colourful but completely different painted metal 'Building Front' (sets refs. 530-534) priced at \$340 apiece to line the elephants' route. But wait there's more

in store because she has also made two different \$265 sets titled 'Tree and Five Street Lights' (refs. 534 or 535) with the distinction being how the trees look.

These items are ideal for adding lots of personality and vivid colours to any Durbar aficionado's display.

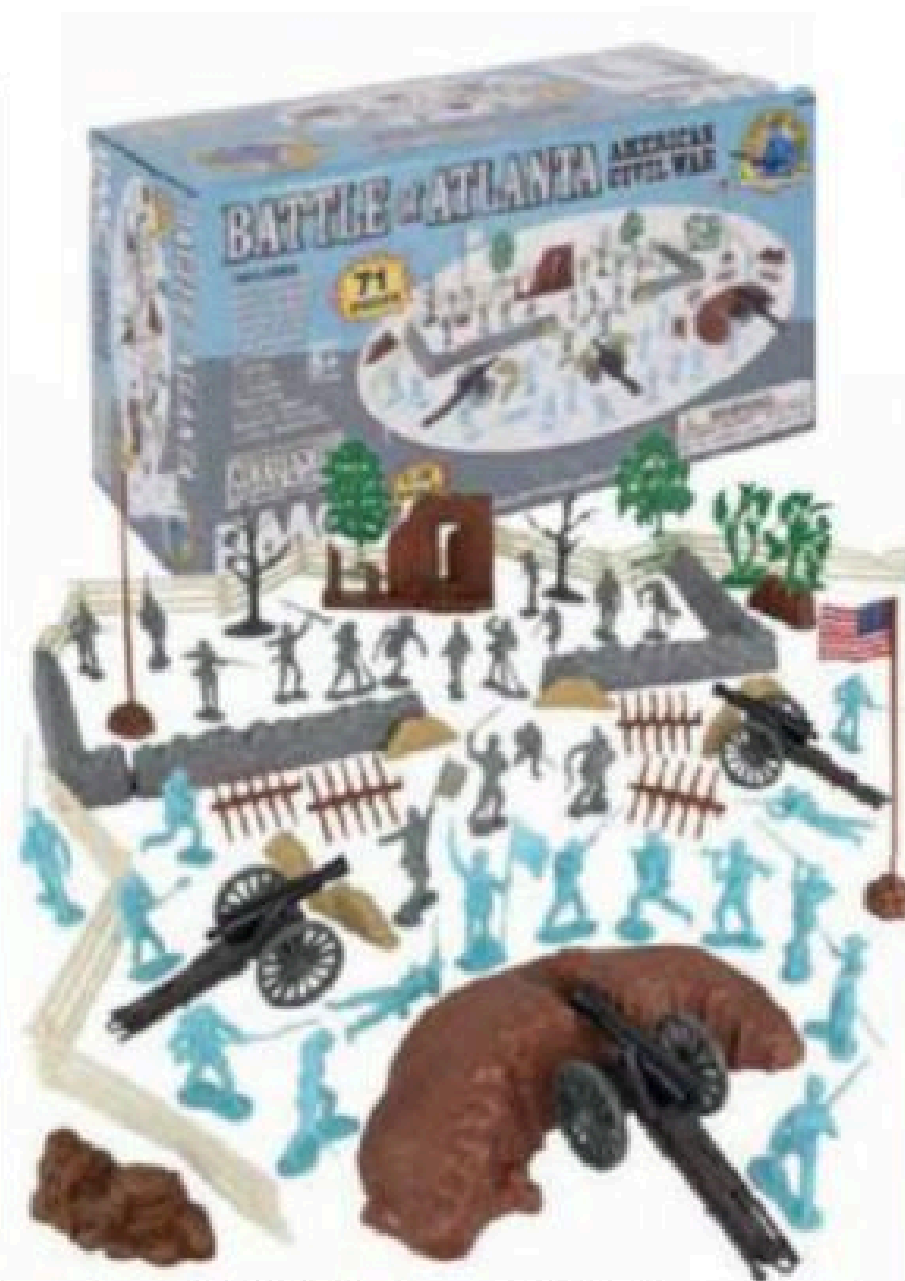
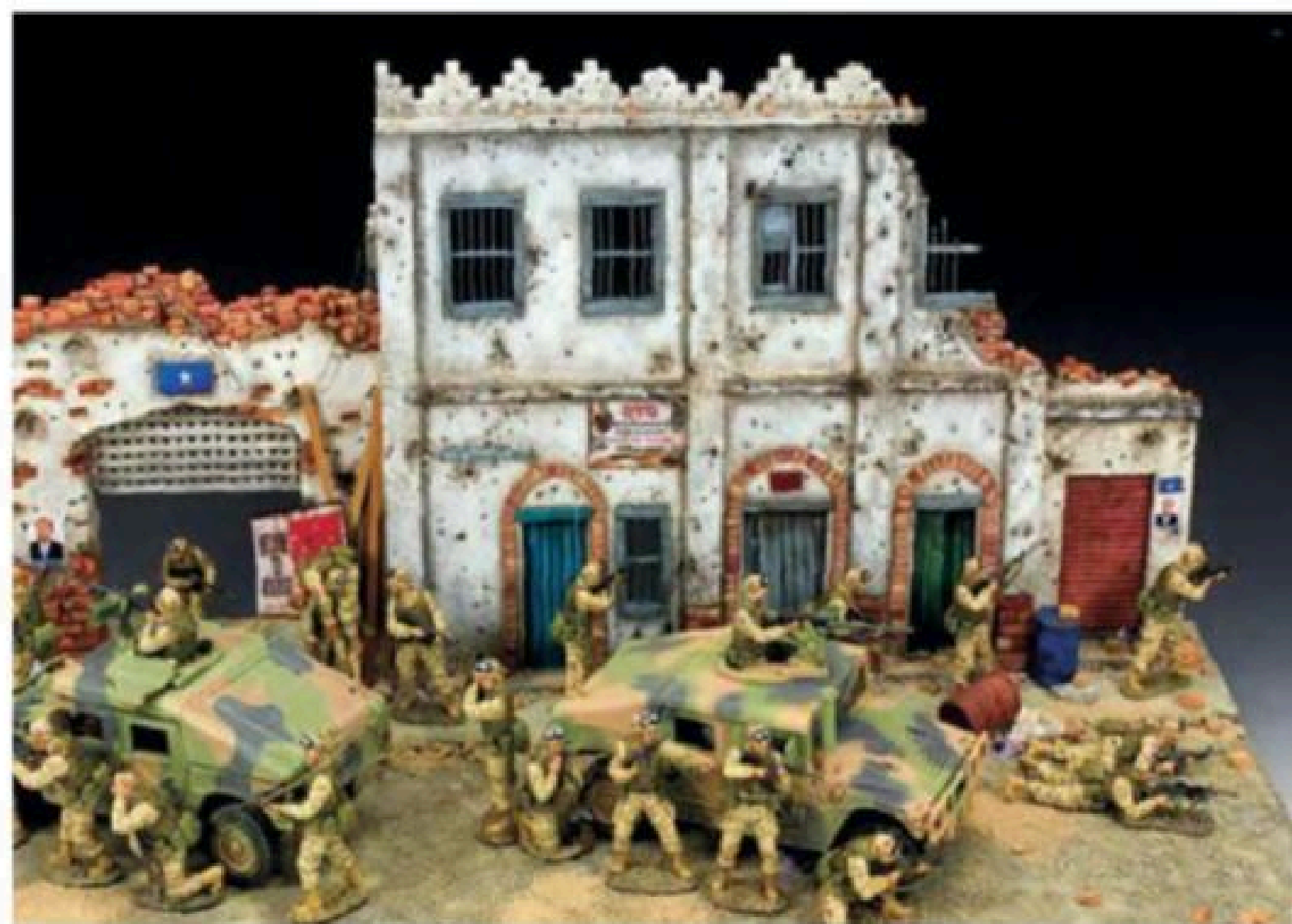


The building facades include a multi-story building (ref. 531).

One of the 'Spectators with Children' sets (ref. 528).







All the latest releases from All Over the World! King and Country, W.Britains, BMC new sets, War Park, more!



Latest Expeditionary Force sets in stock!



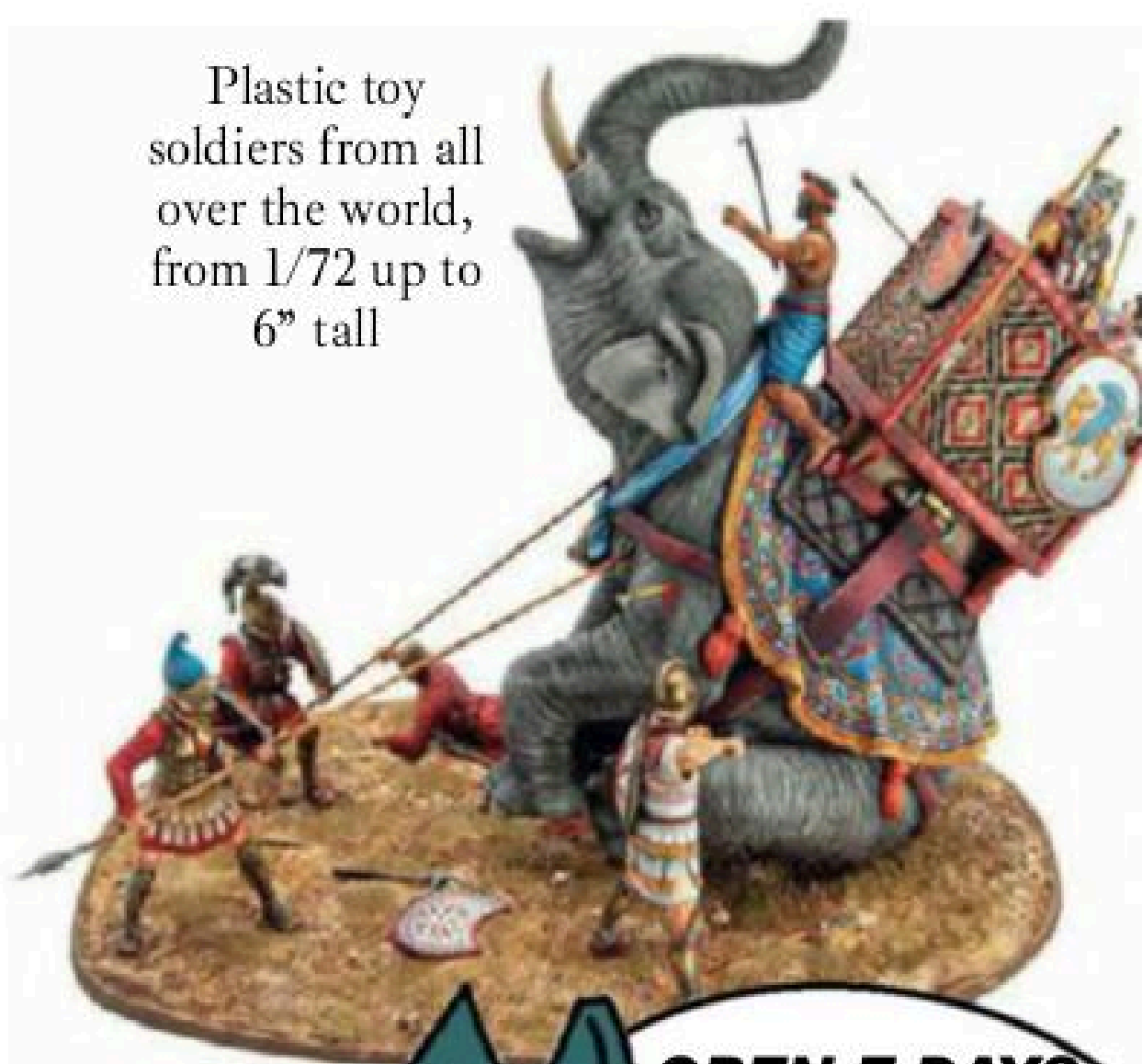
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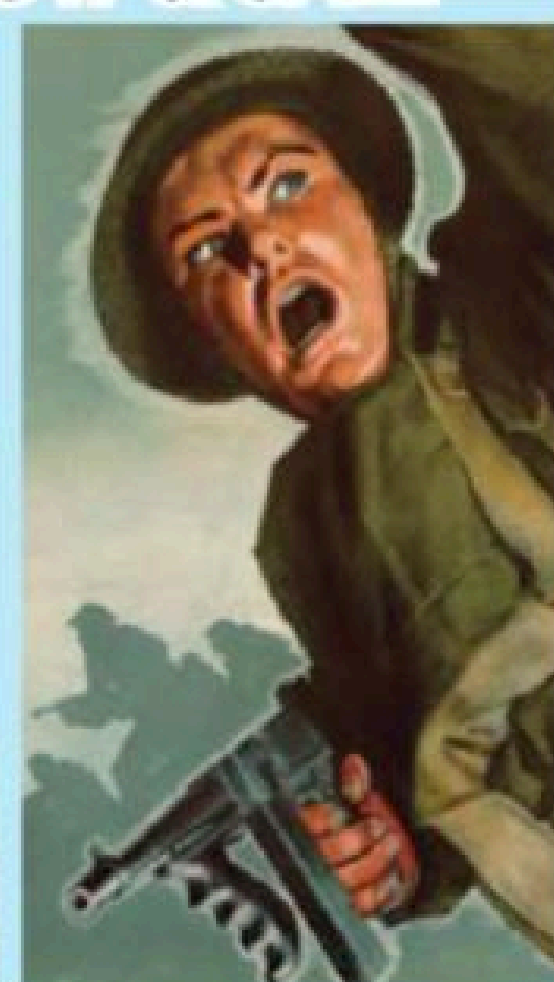
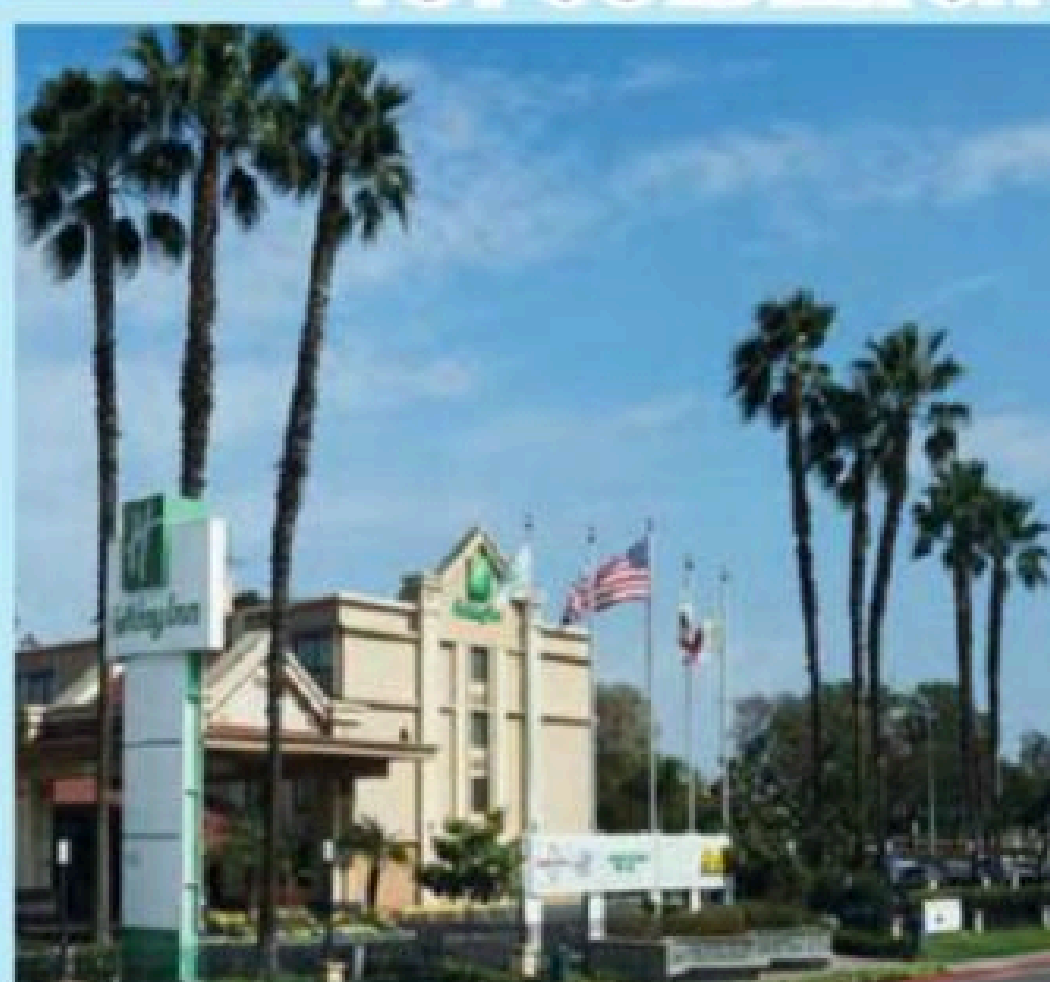


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World War I 'Albatross D.1' (ref. WOW586) based on an aircraft flown by German Lieutenant Otto Paul Wilhem Höhne. All the figures and accessories shown with all these models are for scale purposes only and not included.



## Thomas Gunn Miniatures Warbirds Through History

Reviewed by Stuart A. Hessney

Here we go into the wild blue yonder for a look at a selection of five new 1/30-scale additions to the 'Warbirds Collection' created by Thomas Gunn Miniatures.

Each model is hand-carved from mahogany in the Philippines. Between the modelling, painting and drying time each aircraft represents around 60 hours of labour plus drying time that can add up to a nine-month production time frame, according to UK-based proprietor Simon Thomas Gunn.

"For this reason, we only make small numbers of each model and every aircraft is a unique piece," Tom explained.

### World War I Biplane

A World War I 'Albatross D.1' (ref. WOW586) was based on an aircraft flown by German Lieutenant Otto Paul Wilhem Höhne. This type of biplane equipped the majority of German and Austrian squadrons during the final two years of the war. It was described as giving its pilots 'real teeth' by being the

best all-round fighter available when it went into service.

The Albatross D.1 featured what was a radical semi-monocoque design at the time and a relatively powerful six-cylinder, water-cooled inline engine. In addition, it could be armed with twin *Spandau* machine guns without a meaningful loss of performance, unlike most of its predecessors.

Höhne was credited with six aerial victories ranking him as an ace. After being wounded and hospitalised in January 1917, he returned the following year to command a unit equipped with the Fokker triplane.

Höhne went on to fly with the Condor Legion during the Spanish Civil War then commanded a wing of KG 54 during World War II's invasion of Poland, aerial combat over France and the Battle of Britain. He later oversaw a flight school in Bavaria. He rose to the rank of major general and was awarded the Knight's Cross of

the Iron Cross. He died at age 74 in 1969.

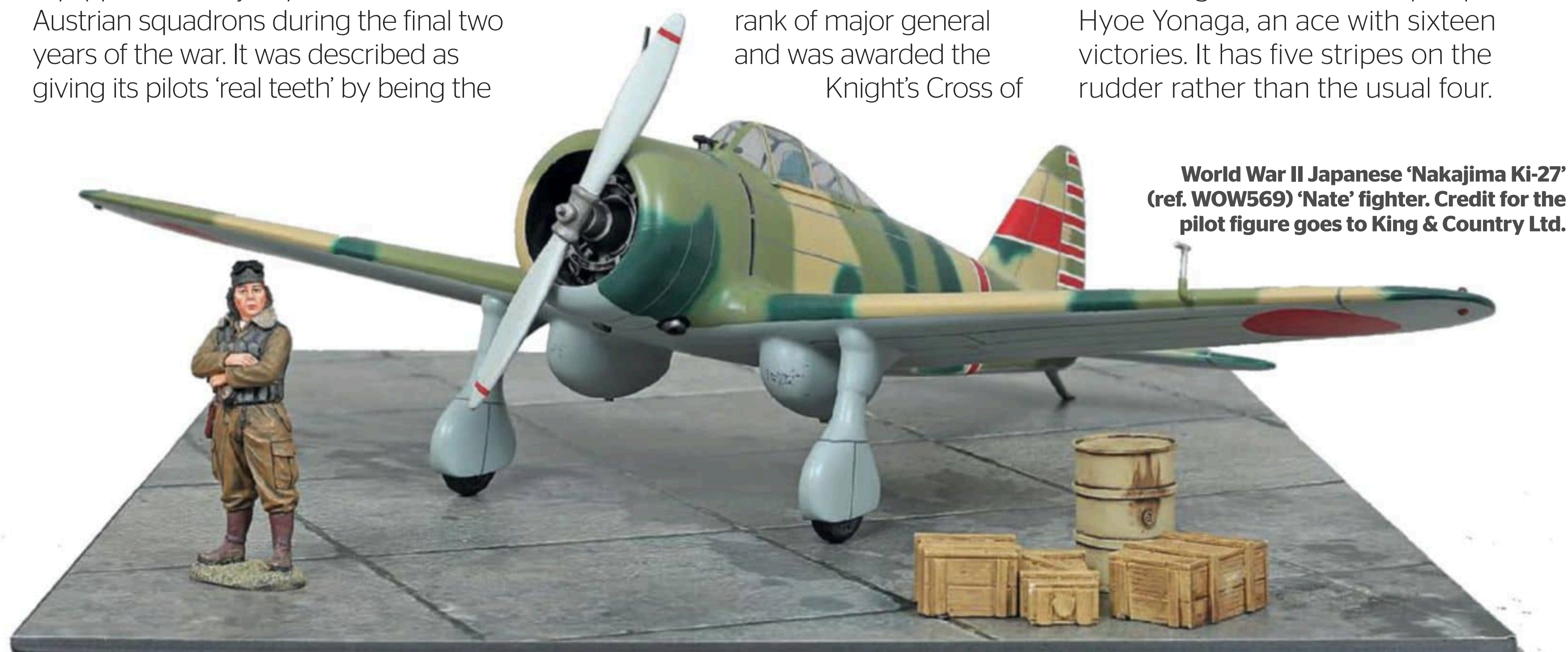
This model is priced at \$650 US plus postage.

### Japanese Nate

World War II is remembered by a reproduction of a 'Nakajima Ki-27' (ref. WOW569). It was the main fighter used by the Imperial Japanese Army Air Service between 1937 and 1940.

Nicknamed the 'Nate' by the Allies, it was relatively slow but it is regarded as one of the most manoeuvrable aircraft ever built. I've never heard of a configuration quite like this one before but its machine guns were mounted in the cockpit floor and fired from beneath the engine. A total of 3,368 variants were built, according to online sources

Three examples of this \$695 model are available to represent the camouflaged Nate flown by Captain Hyoe Yonaga, an ace with sixteen victories. It has five stripes on the rudder rather than the usual four.



World War II Japanese 'Nakajima Ki-27' (ref. WOW569) 'Nate' fighter. Credit for the pilot figure goes to King & Country Ltd.



## The Jet Age

Three types of aircraft represent the Jet Age starting with two different Soviet-built Mig 15s with either a 'Silver' paint scheme circa 1951 (ref. WOW551) or 1953 improved 'Camo BIS' variant (ref. WOW552). They recreate a groundbreaking swept-wing aircraft supplied to Communist China and North Korea whose advanced design startled United Nations forces during the Korean War.

The Soviet Union falsely denied that its pilots flew missions during the conflict. That's why 'Camo BIS' Mig recreates a Chinese air force jet flown by Russian six-time ace Captain Nikolai Ivanovich. Each variant costs \$799.



**Korean War 'Mig 15 Silver' Korea 1951' (ref. WOW551).**

Sleek present-day fighter jets priced at \$899 apiece include a US-built 'Israeli F-16' (ref. WOW590) and a model titled 'Eurofighter - Tiger Meet - Luftwaffe' (ref. WOW590). The former has been used extensively in combat. The latter

was built by a consortium formed by Germany, Spain, Italy and the UK. The Eurofighter is modelled after a German Luftwaffe aircraft that won 'Best Tiger Paint Scheme' honours at Tiger Meet 2014.



**'Israeli F-16' (ref. WOW590).**

**'Eurofighter - Tiger Meet - Luftwaffe' (ref. WOW590).**  
Both modern-day fighters are pictured with TGM display mats and King & Country Ltd. pilot figures for display purposes only.

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# FOUR LADS FROM LIVERPOOL



The 'Four Lads from Liverpool' set (ref. RnR001) is modelled after the artwork for The Beatles' 1967 album *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*.

## King & Country Various New Releases

Reviewed by Stuart A. Hessney

Andy C. Neilson of King & Country Ltd. has unveiled new 1/30-scale releases recreating everything from Ancient Romans to the American West, World War II, Beatlemania and a whole lot more.

### Beatles Tribute

The Scotsman waxed nostalgia as he recalled first becoming aware of a four-man band called The Beatles when he was fourteen years old. While delivering newspapers before going to school in February 1963, he came across a wall poster insert featuring the 'Fab Four': John Lennon, Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr and George Harrison.

Andy related, "I remembered I had heard their first single 'Love Me Do' a few months before. Not a great record, I thought, but not bad for a first attempt. A couple of weeks later, The Beatles released their second 45 record 'Please, Please, Me' and like millions of other British kids I was bowled over and it went straight to No. 1."

Andy observed, "Throughout my teenage years The Beatles were the soundtrack of one of the most exciting decades in British history. They changed everything from how we

looked to how we spoke, what we liked, who we listened to and, importantly, when to seize opportunities if and when they ever happened."

As a tribute, K&C's cofounder and creative director has orchestrated production of a colourful set titled 'Four Lads from Liverpool' (ref. RnR001) and priced at \$249 US. It is quite faithfully modelled after the cover artwork on Beatles eighth album Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band released in May 1967.

The band had ceased touring the year before. The groundbreaking concept album stemmed from McCartney dreaming up a song about an Edwardian military band. It had an immediate impact on youth culture and the music industry while being praised by critics for its songwriting, graphic design and production.

Andy added, "This unique little set is myself and K&C's tribute to these four lads from relatively modest working-class backgrounds Liverpool who rose to the heights of fame and fortune and changed the world!"

### Royal Treatment

Other splendid new figures with British roots include a \$49 sculpture of 'King Edward VII' (ref. TR017) wearing his coronation robes and the ceremonial dress uniform of a field marshal while holding his marshal's baton. Nicknamed 'Bertie,' he was the second child and eldest son of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. The 'playboy prince' was heir to the throne for 60 years until his mother died in 1901.

While ruling about a quarter of the globe, he played roles in reorganising the British Army and modernising the

'King Edward VII' (ref. TR017).





Two medieval English archer variants have been fielded.



Royal Navy. Edward VII was age 68 when he died at Buckingham Palace in London on 6 May 1910.

K&C's parade lineup has been joined by 'The Irish Guards Mascot Seamus and Handler' (ref. CE117). The Foot Guards regiment's current Irish Wolfhound mascot joined the regiment in 2022. Seamus and his drummer handler led the Irish Guards Massed Pipes & Drums to Buckingham Palace for King Charles III's Coronation Procession in 2023.

## Eons of History

Civilian additions to the maker's burgeoning 'Streets of Ancient Rome' series.

range include evocative duos titled 'The Hard-Working Servants' (ref. RNBO44) and 'The Noble Couple' (ref. RnBO54) priced at \$95 and \$89, respectively. Three boys enjoy playing a game of chance with small stones and perhaps even coins in a \$129 set called what else but the 'Young Roman Game Players' (ref. RnBO58). The \$49 'Roman Orator' (ref. RnBO63) stands on a marble plinth to address a crowd.

Two 'final' additions have reinforced K&C's recent collection of medieval English archers. In addition to having quivers of arrows, both bowmen have three more planted in the ground next to them. They cost \$49 apiece,

Various new civilians have joined the 'Streets of Ancient Rome' series.



'The Irish Guards Mascot Seamus and Handler' (ref. CE117).

sport painting variations and are titled 'Ready to Fire Archer (Red Helmet)' Ref. (MK237) and 'Ready to Fire Archer (Iron Helmet)' Ref. (MK245).

## Wild West

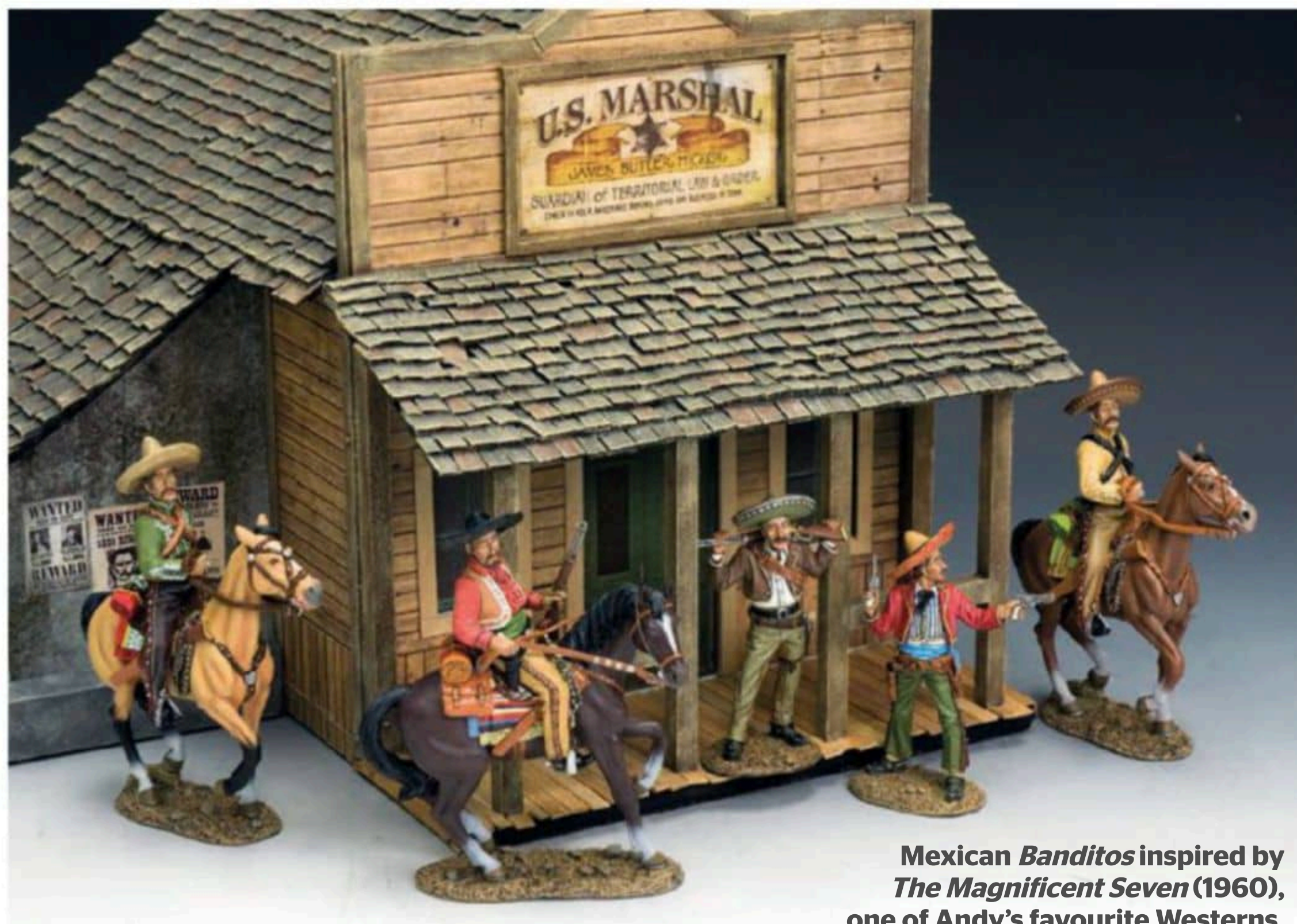
After the Kansas Pacific Railway (Union Pacific) reached Abilene, Kansas, in 1867, it soon became known as the Old West's first 'Cow Town' due to its stockyards and rail connections to major markets. From 1867 to 1871, Texans drove their cattle herds along the Chisholm Trail to Abilene, turning it into epitome of a Wild West town for a time.

K&C has remembered this history with a \$49 cowpoke resting against a 'Welcome to Abilene' sign (ref. CD041) after months in the saddle. Incidentally, US President Dwight D. Eisenhower was born in Abilene in 1890.



The Old West 'Welcome to Abilene' set (ref. CD041).





**Mexican *Banditos* inspired by *The Magnificent Seven* (1960), one of Andy's favourite Westerns.**



**Apache warriors named 'White Cloud' and 'Black Knife' are shown from the left.**

Also new are \$49 Indians titled 'Black Knife: Crouching Apache Warrior' (ref. TRW192) armed with a captured US Cavalry carbine and 'White Cloud: Advancing Indian Archer' with a Colt .45 piston for backup (ref. TRW192). Both sculptures seem to silently scream stealthiness.

Colourful Mexican *Banditos* who ranged across the border into Texas between 1848 and the 1920s have triggered Andy to create five lifelike figures based on *The Magnificent Seven* (1960), one of his favourite movies. They are led by a \$125 mounted figure of 'Calvera, the *Bandito* Chief' (ref. TRW205) carrying a Winchester rifle based on actor Eli Wallach. Either 'Mounted *Bandito* No. 1' (ref. TRW206) or 'Mounted *Bandito* No. 2' (ref. TRW209) costs \$125.

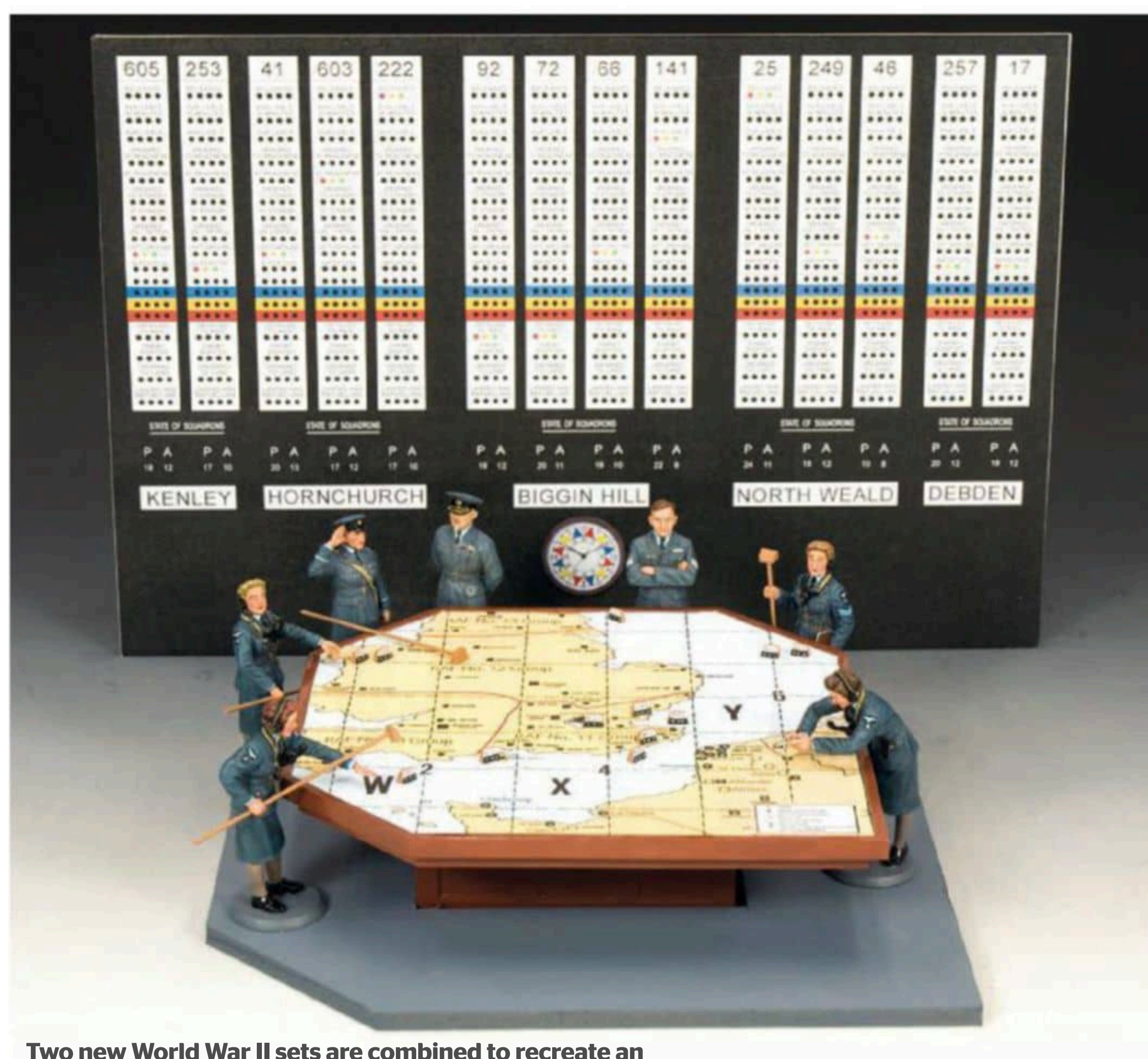
Figures on foot sold singly for \$49 include the relaxed looking 'Winchester *Bandito*' (ref. TRW207) and 'Jesus Arriago: Chucho el Roto' (ref. TRW208). The latter Mexican (1858-1885) was known for his love of colourful clothes and for being a bit of a Robin Hood-like figure who liked to rob the rich and sometimes give to the poor.

Andy has revealed plans to release a special seven-figure set based on stars of Western including Steve McQueen, Yul Brynner, Charles Bronson and James Coburn.

## Sky Wars

World War II's sky wars have inspired brilliant new releases based on Allied and Axis combatants.

K&C has gone behind the scenes of the Battle of Britain to illustrate how underdog Royal Air Force pilots' ultimate triumph in the skies against the German Luftwaffe were helped by regional Fighter Groups Operations Rooms usually bunkered underground and staffed by members of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF). An \$89 set titled 'Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding & the WAAF Section Officer' (ref. RAF080) depicts the commander in chief of RAF Fighter Command being saluted by a female section officer while visiting a typical Operations Room. That duo goes perfectly with a \$275 'Battle of Britain Operations Room Set' (ref. RAF081) that has a male RAF sergeant standing by a heptagonal table blanketed by a sectional map of South East England. Each WAAF member holds a long wooden stick to push around markers representing RAF units or German raiders. The women also wear radio headsets with microphones to receive instructions and respond as necessary. This great set even includes a backdrop authentically modelled after a large illuminated, tote-style panel board showing the locations of airfields and squadron.



**Two new World War II sets are combined to recreate an RAF Fighter Groups Operations Room during the Battle of Britain.**





K&C's models of German ace 'Major Erich Hartmann' (ref. LW092) and his 'Messerschmitt Bf. 109' (ref. LW091).

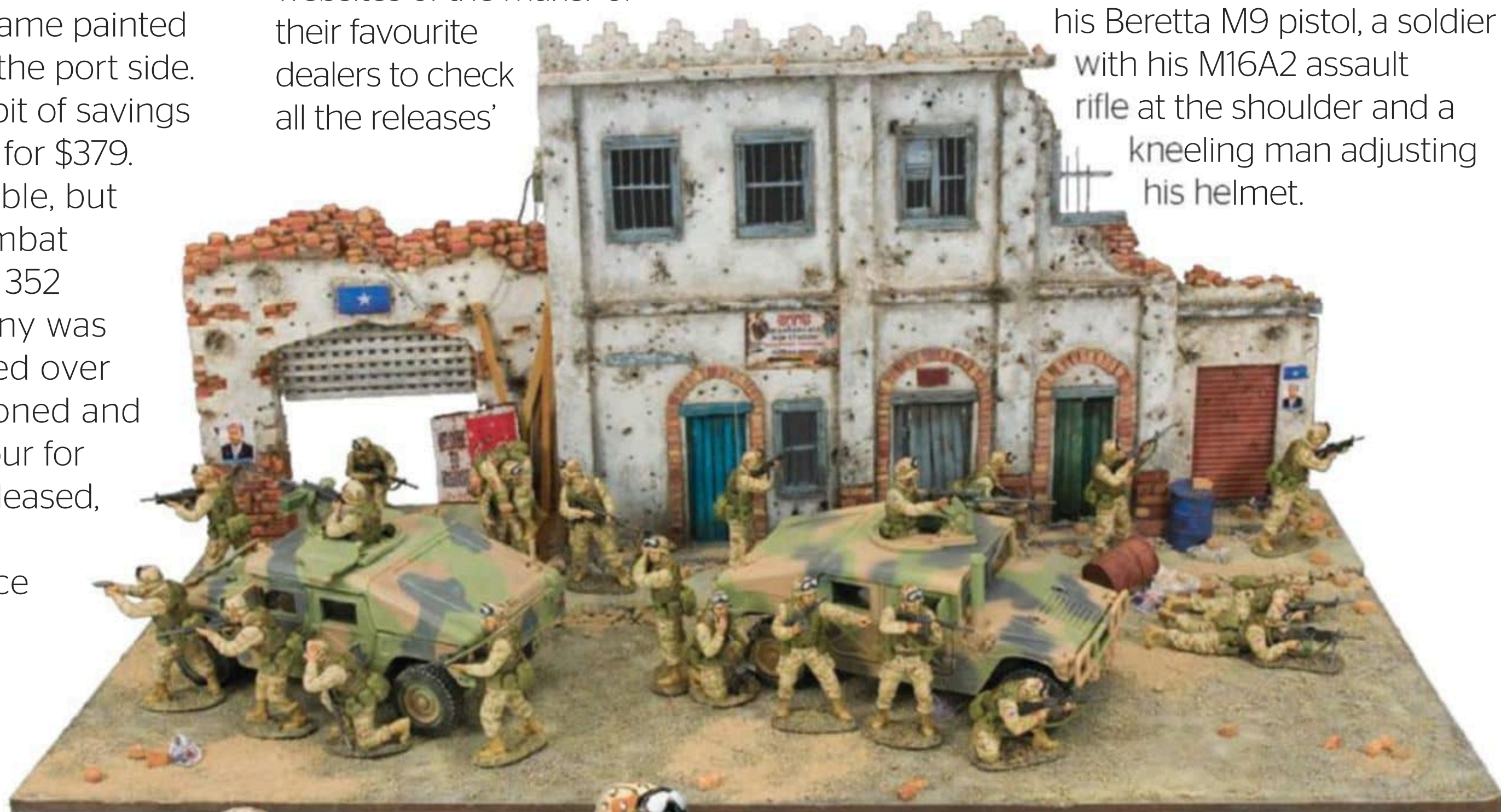
A German ace who spent most of the war in the skies above the Eastern Front was the basis for a \$49 standing figure of 'Major Erich Hartmann' (ref. LW092) and a \$349 model of 'Erich Hartmann's Messerschmitt Bf. 109' (ref. LW091) in winter colours with a black tulip design on its nose and a red tulip bearing his wife's name painted beneath the cockpit on the port side. A collector can enjoy a bit of savings by buying both of them for \$379.

It might seem incredible, but Hartmann flew 825 combat missions and recorded 352 victories before Germany was defeated, he was handed over to the Russians, imprisoned and subjected to forced labour for a decade. After being released, he became a colonel in West Germany's air force and flew the US-made F104 Starfighter.

## Black Hawk Down

K&C has continued to reinforce its action-packed series based on the 1993 Battle of Mogadishu in Somalia and movie *Black Hawk Down* (2001) that Andy first unveiled in a *TSC&HF* issue 117 feature. Readers can visit the websites of the maker or their favourite dealers to check all the releases'

prices set to date. Highlights of the most recent additions include two variants of a \$339 US Army Humvee with a gunners manning a .50 calibre machine guns (refs. BHD013 or 14). Also brand new is a \$177 'Ranger Fire Team' (ref. BHD0170) made up of a NCO using both hands to grip and fire his Beretta M9 pistol, a soldier with his M16A2 assault rifle at the shoulder and a kneeling man adjusting his helmet.



'Ranger Fire Team' (ref. BHD0170) in action during the Battle of Mogadishu, Somalia, in 1993.

US Army Rangers and Humvees have reinforced the range based on the movie *Black Hawk Down* (2001).



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Motorcycle and sidecar (ref. BMW-R12) by Xuan Hua Miniature.

## Xuan Hua Miniature German Motorcycles

Reviewed by Stuart A. Hessney

Vroom vroom! Xuan Hua Miniature has switched gears by producing two World War II German BMW Motorrad R12 motorcycle variants to roar out of its workshop to complement its 1/30-scale toy soldiers.

I first introduced readers to this new brand in *TSC&HF* issue 109. The proprietor's Chinese name is reflected in the brand name but he prefers to go by his English name Nicolas Cage in honour of the American actor. His interests in history and collecting military miniatures led to Nicolas launching his very own brand.

Xuan Hua Miniature produces matt-finished 1/30-scale soldiers and vehicles like these motorcycles and painted busts available in different sizes. Topics covered range from China's history to the Crusades, the Napoleonic Wars and World War II.

### Forks Innovation

BMW produced both the R12 and R17 flat-twin engine motorcycles from 1935 to 1942 in Munich. Chief Engineer Alfred Böning conceived their Art Deco design using geometry as a basis. Perhaps his most groundbreaking achievement was designing the world's first motorcycles produced with hydraulically damped telescopic forks.

The four-stroke engine was a twin-cylinder boxer configuration with a flathead design. The R12's four-speed

manual gearbox was operated using a hand shift lever on the right side of the fuel tank. This type of motorcycle also had front and back drum brakes.

As shown by one of these models, many R12s were equipped with a sidecar attached to the right side of the motorbike. Only the single carburettor *Einvergaser* motor was available for the R12 for use by Nazi Germany's military forces.

### Model Variants

Xuan Hua Miniature offers collectors a choice of either only just a motorcycle (ref. BMW-R12s) for \$99.95 US or complete with a sidecar and machine gun (ref. BMW-R12) for \$129.95. By today's standards, these motorcycles seem fairly priced considering the intricacy of the faithful modelling. I only hope that figures to ride them or stand next to them are marched out to zoom zoom too.

This maker's dealers include Maison Militaire in the UK and Minutemen Toy Soldiers in the USA.



The motorcycle features intricate detailing (ref. BMW-R12s).

The sidecar is armed with a machine gun.



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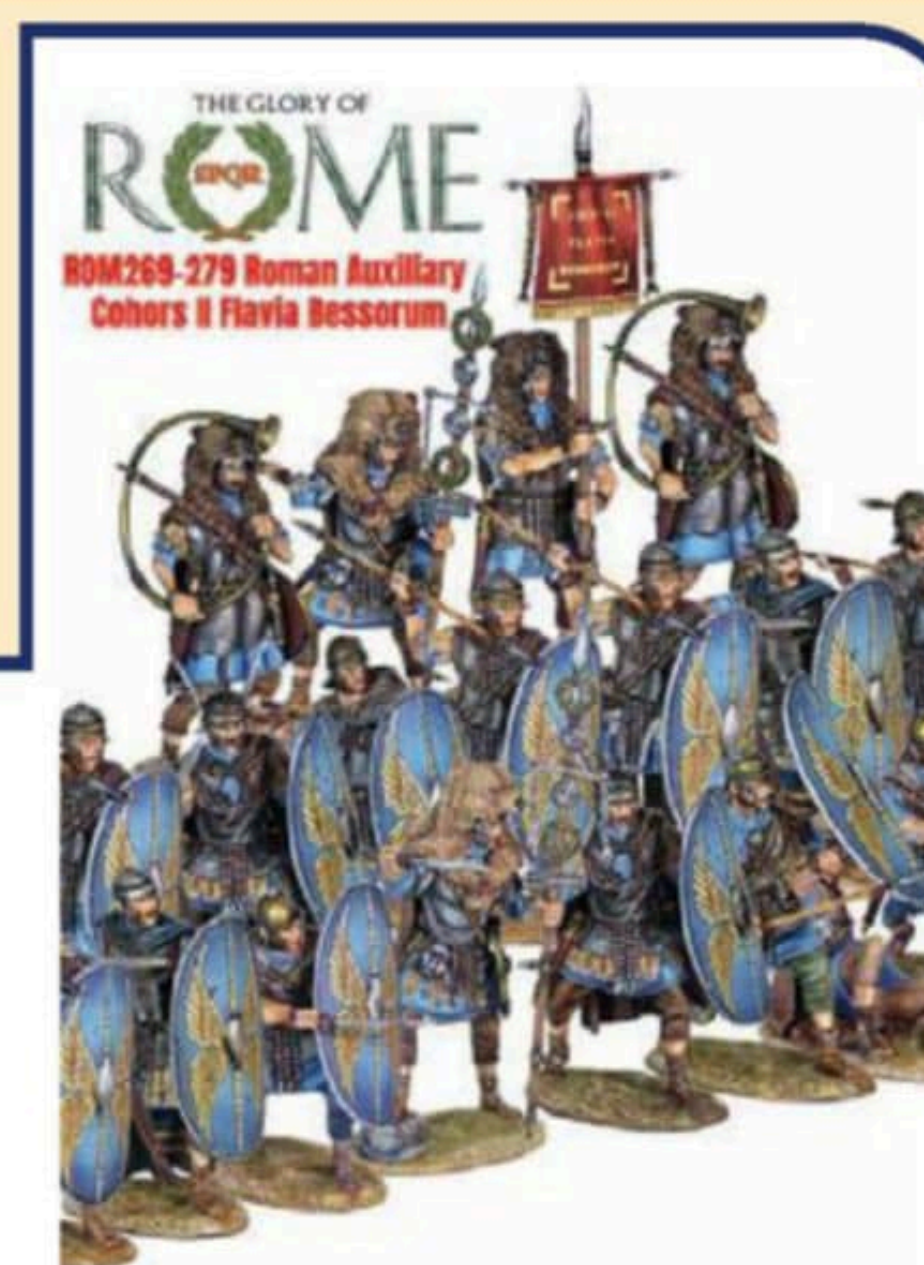
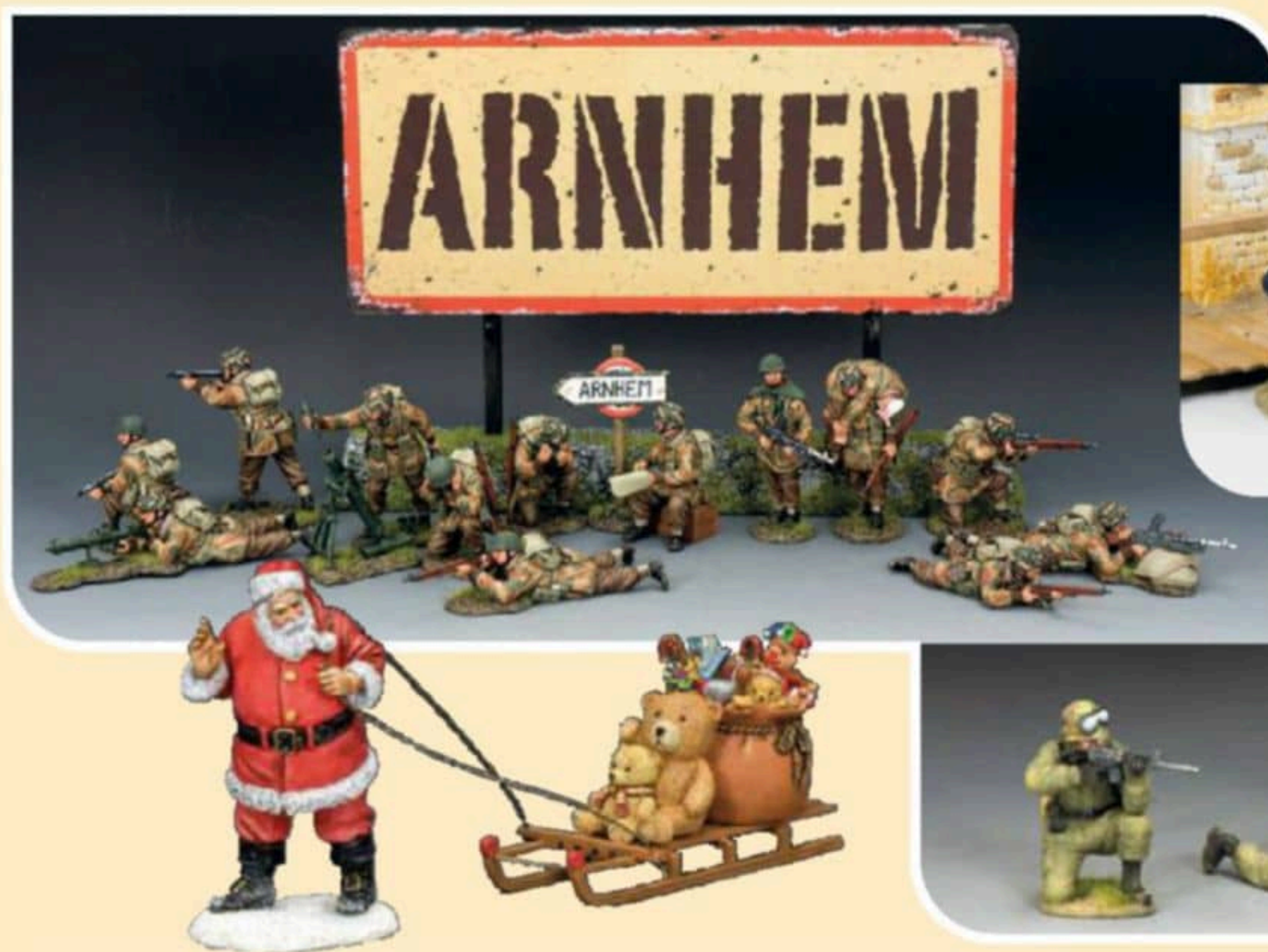
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### King & Country



### First Legion



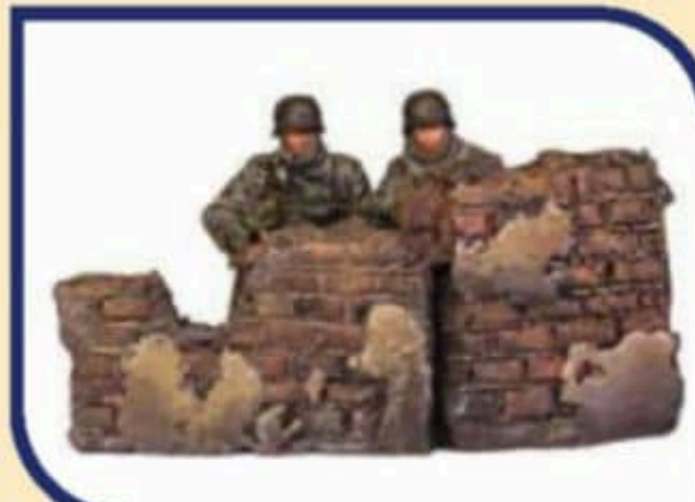
### Collectors Showcase



### War Park



### Xuan Hua



### W.Britain



Authorised dealers of King & Country, First Legion, Tom Gunn, Toy Soldiers of Denmark, Team Miniatures, Black Hawk, Last Post, War Park, Xuan Hua, Collectors Showcase and Conte.







The latest and previously released American Revolution figures depicting the British Army's 43rd Regiment of Foot form a firing line.

'British 43rd Regiment of Foot Drummer Standing' (ref. 16206).

## W. Britain Model Figures Various New Releases

Reviewed by Stuart A. Hessney

Newly minted 1/30-scale figures from W. Britain Model Figures include painstakingly modelled opposing forces of the American Revolution, striking grenadiers of the Napoleonic French Imperial Guard and American GIs for marking the solemn 80th anniversary of World War II's wintry Battle of the Bulge. As usual, these matt-finished figures are faithfully imbued with historically accurate details by company President and Creative Director Kenneth A. Osen and his talented team.

### Revolutionary Figures

Regular readers will already be aware of how I have been reviewing a steady drumbeat of releases recreating the British Army's 43rd Regiment of Foot from this maker. The regiment first arrived in the Thirteen Colonies in 1774 and served for the duration of the Revolutionary War from the opening volleys at Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts in 1775 to the penultimate Siege of Yorktown in Virginia and the Redcoat army's surrender that effectively ended the war in 1781 and resulted in American independence in 1783. The subtext behind these circa 1780 firing line figures is that Ken has been using them to illustrate all the steps in the manual of arms.

Now they have been reinforced by a half-dozen fighting men of the 43rd. One soldier is posed titled 'Standing Defending' (ref. 16202) while there is one reeling 'Casualty Falling' (ref. 16204) and another 'Casualty' lying on his back (ref. 16205) that has dropped his tricorne hat and bayonet-tipped musket. The 'Drummer Standing' (ref. 16206) is modelled in a white coat with red facings and lace since wearing reversed colours from his 43rd comrades was the norm. All those new additions are led by a 'Company Officer, Standing' with his sword drawn (ref. 16207) and a 'King's Colour' bearer (ref. 16209). Those figures are sold singly with the three other ranks priced at \$48 US, the officer \$50, the drummer \$52 and the standard-bearer \$68.

Casualties suffered by the 43rd at Yorktown included ten killed, eighteen wounded and a dozen missing. The regiment's strength was twelve officers and 345 rank-and-file when Lord Cornwallis surrendered to Continental Army General George Washington and his French allies on 19 October 1781. At the time it was recorded that the 43rd surrendered both its regimental and King's colours, however, the regiment later claimed



'British 43rd Regiment of Foot King's Colour' (ref. 16209).





W. Britain's Revolutionary War figures of the Royal Deux-Pont Regiment have been reinforced by an 'Officer' (ref. 16186), a 'Sergeant' cradling his musket with his right arm (ref. 16187) and an 'Ensign with Flag' (ref. 16188).

its flags had been left at a depot in New York, not surrendered.

Three new figures uniformed in blue with yellow facings recreate the Royal Deux-Pont Regiment and represent the Continental Army's most important European ally. It was a German regiment in French service under the overall command of General Jean-Baptiste Dornation

de Vimeur, Comte de Rochambeau, in North America.

They were part of a 400-man assault force led by Vicomte Guillaume de Deux-Ponts in an attack on the British Redoubt No. 9, while Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Hamilton commanded American light infantry in a simultaneous attack on Redoubt No. 10 at Yorktown on

**The four new Napoleonic French figures depicting the 1st Regiment of Imperial Guard Grenadiers are joined by civilians to enhance a scenic setting.**



**A closer look at the figure titled 'French Imperial Guard Eagle No. 2' (ref. 36224).**

15 October. Managing to seize those key positions enabled the allies to advance their siege lines and tighten their stranglehold to help compel the enemy's surrender.

The reinforcements include a \$68 'Ensign with Flag' (ref. 16188), a \$50 'Officer' (ref. 16186) and a \$48 'Sergeant' (ref. 16187).

## Imperial Guard

A magnificent \$68 model titled 'French Imperial Guard Eagle No. 2' (ref. 36224) headlines reinforcements to the maker's ongoing Napoleonic Wars range. This stalwart veteran has the honour of being the Imperial Eagle bearer of the 1st Regiment of Imperial Guard Grenadiers. This is a riveting rendition of the flag richly embroidered in gold with the regimental title and insignia on one side and a list of battle honours on the reverse. A bronze Eagle tops the flagstaff made of oak painted blue. The Eagle's design was inspired by Ancient Roman legions.

Also new are \$48 Imperial Guard figures posed 'Standing at Support' (ref. 36222) or 'Cradling Musket' (ref. 36225) along with a \$52 'Drummer, No. 2' (ref. 36223).



## World War II GIs

A quartet of new releases recreates American GIs fighting their way across Western Europe, including during the Germans' ultimately unsuccessful surprise counterattack launched in late 1944 in the wintry Ardennes region of Belgium and Luxembourg.

A prone two-man team of GIs manning a Browning M1919A4 machine gun composes an illustrative \$110 set titled 'Suppressing Fire!' (ref. 25240). Both the 'US Infantryman Walking in Raincoat' (ref. 25244) and a figure listed as 'US 101st Airborne Running with M3 Grease Gun' (ref. 25243) are sold singly for \$48.

My new favourite by far is a storytelling set of three GIs titled 'Welcome to Bastogne' (ref. 25290) that retails for \$150. This smiling group is based on a period photograph showing soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division's 327th Glider Infantry standing by one of the signs along the seven different roads that converged in Bastogne, Belgium, which withstood a German siege until being relieved. Like many of the Allied troops who were suddenly rushed into action in what was thought to be a quiet sector, they lacked proper equipment and winter clothing so they grabbed whatever they could.

Those real soldiers and these toy soldiers typify the scruffy but valiant guys who became known as the 'Battered Bastards of Bastogne.' What a cool way to commemorate the 80th anniversary!



**'US Infantryman Walking in Raincoat' (ref. 25244).**



**'US 101st Airborne Running with M3 Grease Gun' (ref. 25243).**



**Three GIs form the evocative 'Welcome to Bastogne' set (ref. 25290) marking the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.**




**A prone two-man team of GIs mans a Browning M1919A4 machine gun in the 'Suppressing Fire!' set (ref. 25240).**


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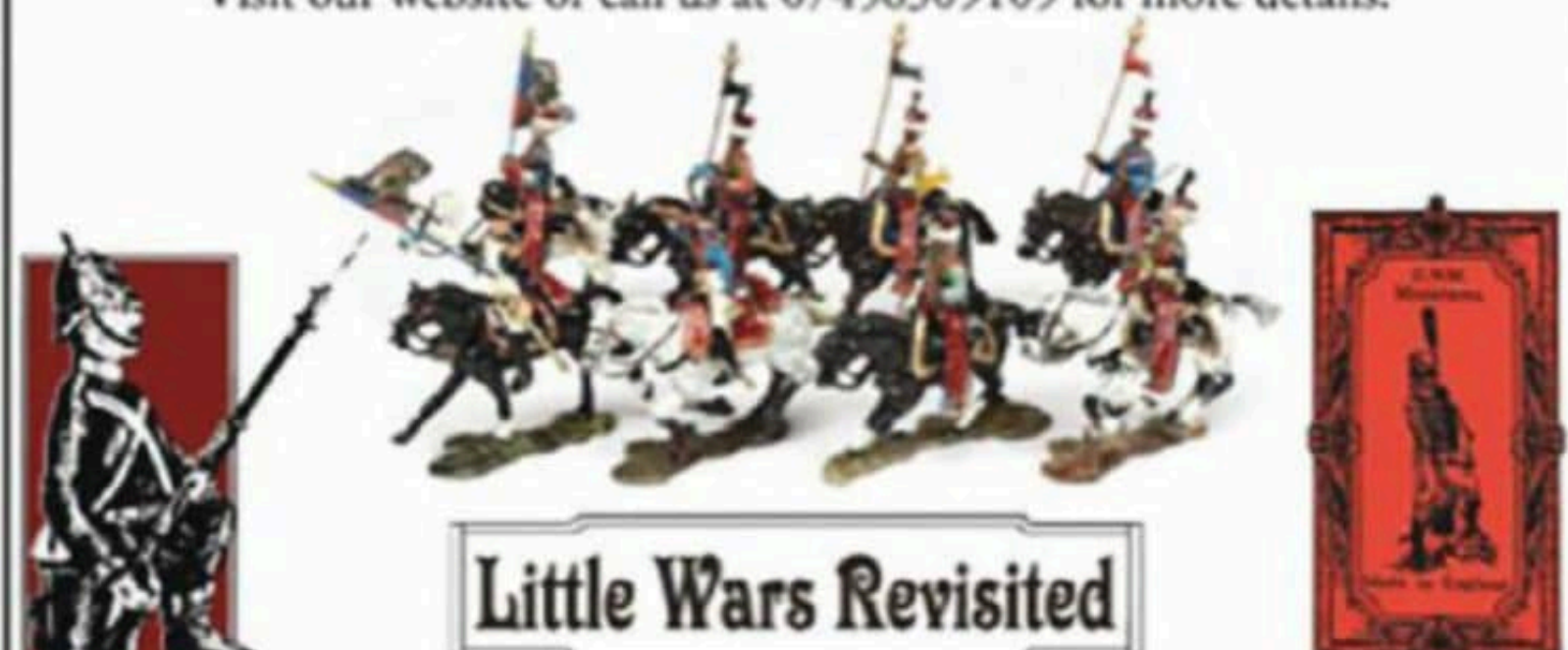
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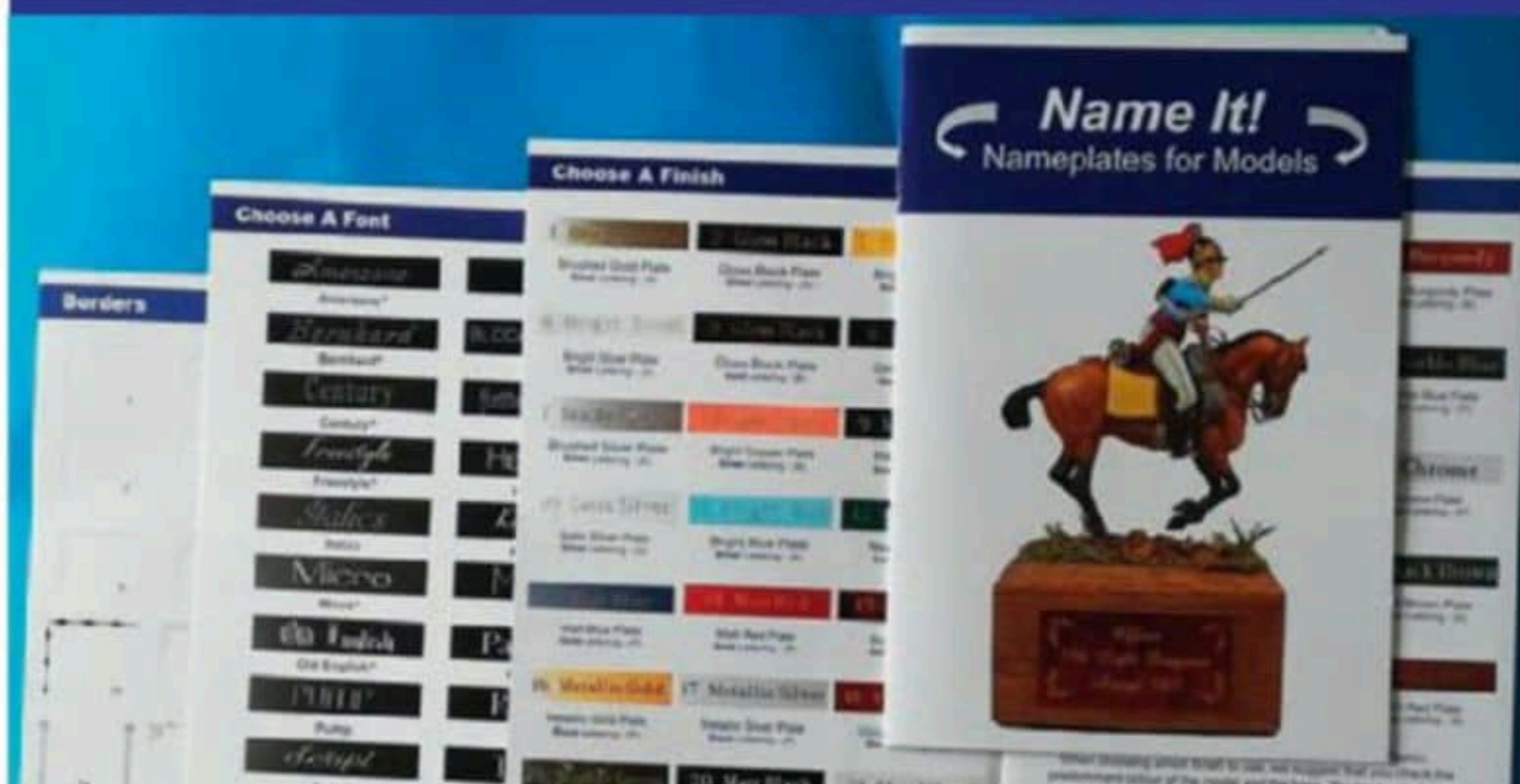
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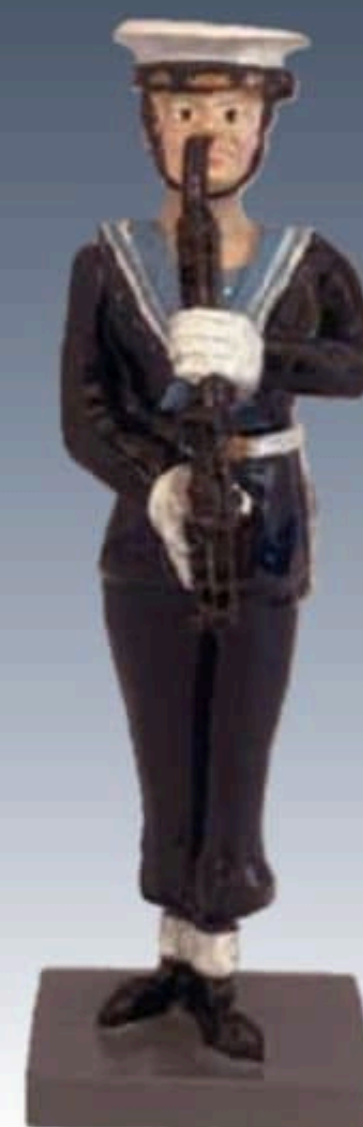
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**Lieutenant Solomon Benzecry' (ref. 309).**

**'Royal Marine at Present' (ref. 302).**

**'Yeoman Warder Officer' (ref. 310).**

**'Naval Rating At Present' (ref. 303).**


## The British Toy Soldier Company Various New Releases

Reviewed by George Phillips

Under the new management of Louise Handley, a long-time business collaborator and friend of former proprietors Patrick and Chris Adams, The British Toy Soldier Company (BTSC) is on the march again. Determined to build on the legacy of the much-respected brand, Louise has released new gloss-painted 54mm ceremonial figures based on sculpts by Steve Ledley, along with an intriguing new character figure.

First up is a mainstay of London tourist trade collectables: a British 'Yeoman Warder Officer' (ref. 310). Also known as Beefeaters, the Yeomen Warders were established in 1485 by King Henry VII as royal bodyguards

and tasked with guarding the Tower of London and its prisoners. During the ensuing centuries, they evolved from their military origins into ceremonial guardians of the Tower, where they now serve as tour guides, historians and keepers of British history and tradition. Beefeaters must be former soldiers with at least 22 years of military service who achieved the rank of warrant officer or higher and were awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. The BTSC Beefeater has vivid red and gold paintwork depicting their ornate uniform. As an officer, he is equipped with a Partisan ceremonial cane. This piece is priced at a very reasonable £18.

Four different figures posed at present arms hold SLR rifles with which British units were armed from 1954-1985. They are priced at £18 each, or you can buy four for a discounted £68.

Also new is a depiction of the courageous Lieutenant Solomon Benzecry (ref. 309). A Gibraltar by birth, the 24-year-old soldier was involved in a heroic rearguard action in Bourn Wood during World War I's Battle of Cambrai in late 1917. Benzecry and a Captain Stone fought the attacking Germans to the death and are credited with averting the loss of the 10th Battalion of the London Regiment. This unique piece is also priced at £18.


**'Royal Air Force At Present' (ref. 305).**

**'Scots Guard At Present' (ref. 304).**

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# Little Legion Toy Soldiers Mounted Mahdist Warriors

Reviewed by George Phillips

Welsh artisan toy soldier maker Mike Norris has carved a reputation for the quality and historical accuracy of his traditional-style, hand-painted figures. Under the Little Legion Toy Soldiers brand, his catalogue covers a range of historical conflicts in which the British armed forces were engaged, including the Napoleonic Wars and Great Britain's colonial wars of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Mike's latest 54mm releases include some superb Dervish horsemen and camel riders depicting Sudanese combatants from the Mahdist

War of 1881-1899. If action-packed dioramas representing this conflict are your thing, these dynamically posed riders would make superb new additions to any battleground.

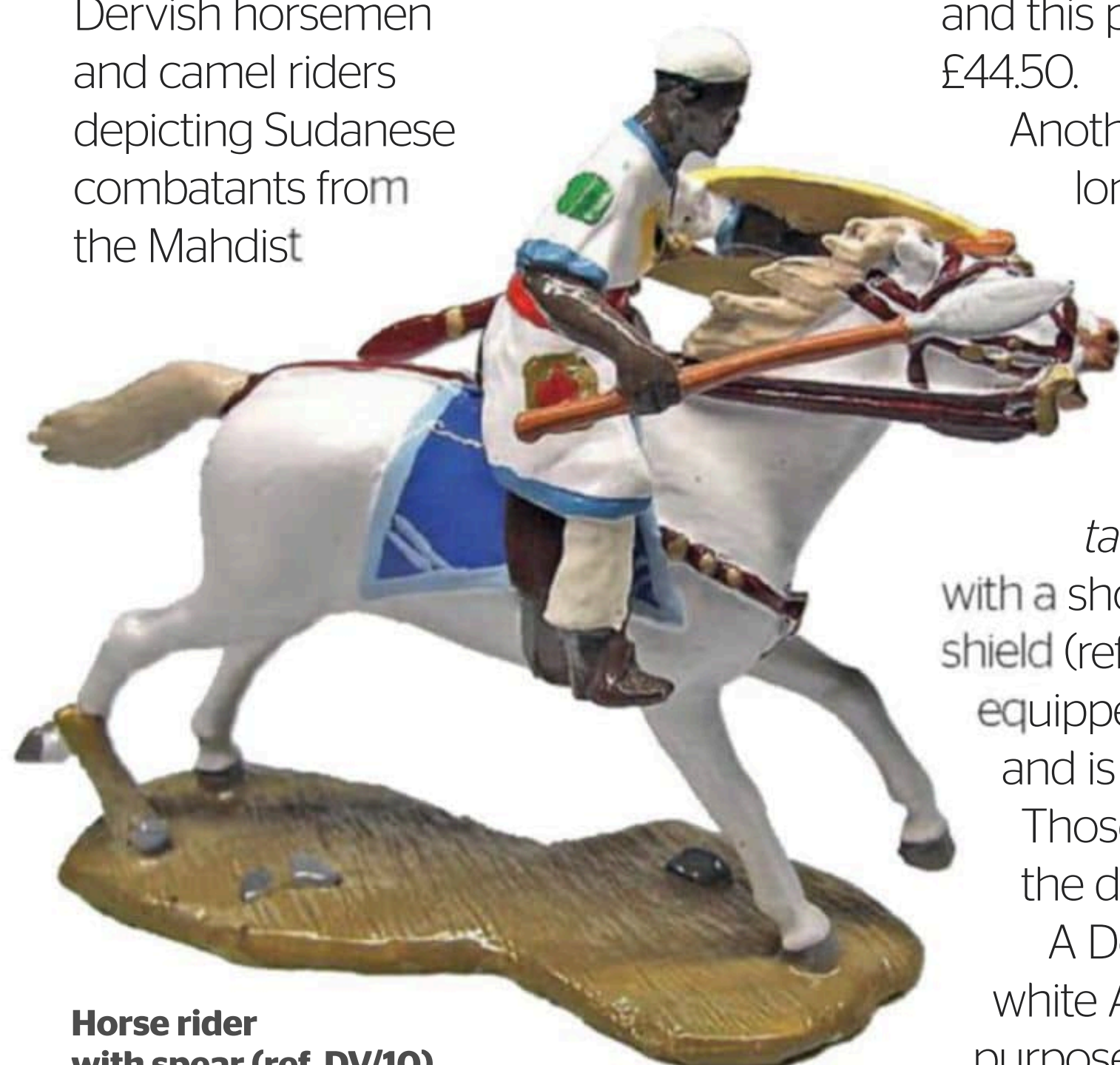
A camel rider holding an Islamic flag (ref. DV/6) is crisply finished in traditional gloss paint. He is also armed with a straight-bladed sword and circular tribal shield. The rider and mount have great animation and this piece is priced at £44.50.

Another camel rider holds a long-barrelled muzzle-loading rifle and an almond-shaped shield (ref. DC/12). Other new releases include two spearmen mounted on camels. One wears a white *taqiyah* (skullcap) and is armed with a short stabbing spear and circular shield (ref. DV/3). The second Dervish is equipped with a conical metal helmet and is similarly armed (ref. DV/2).

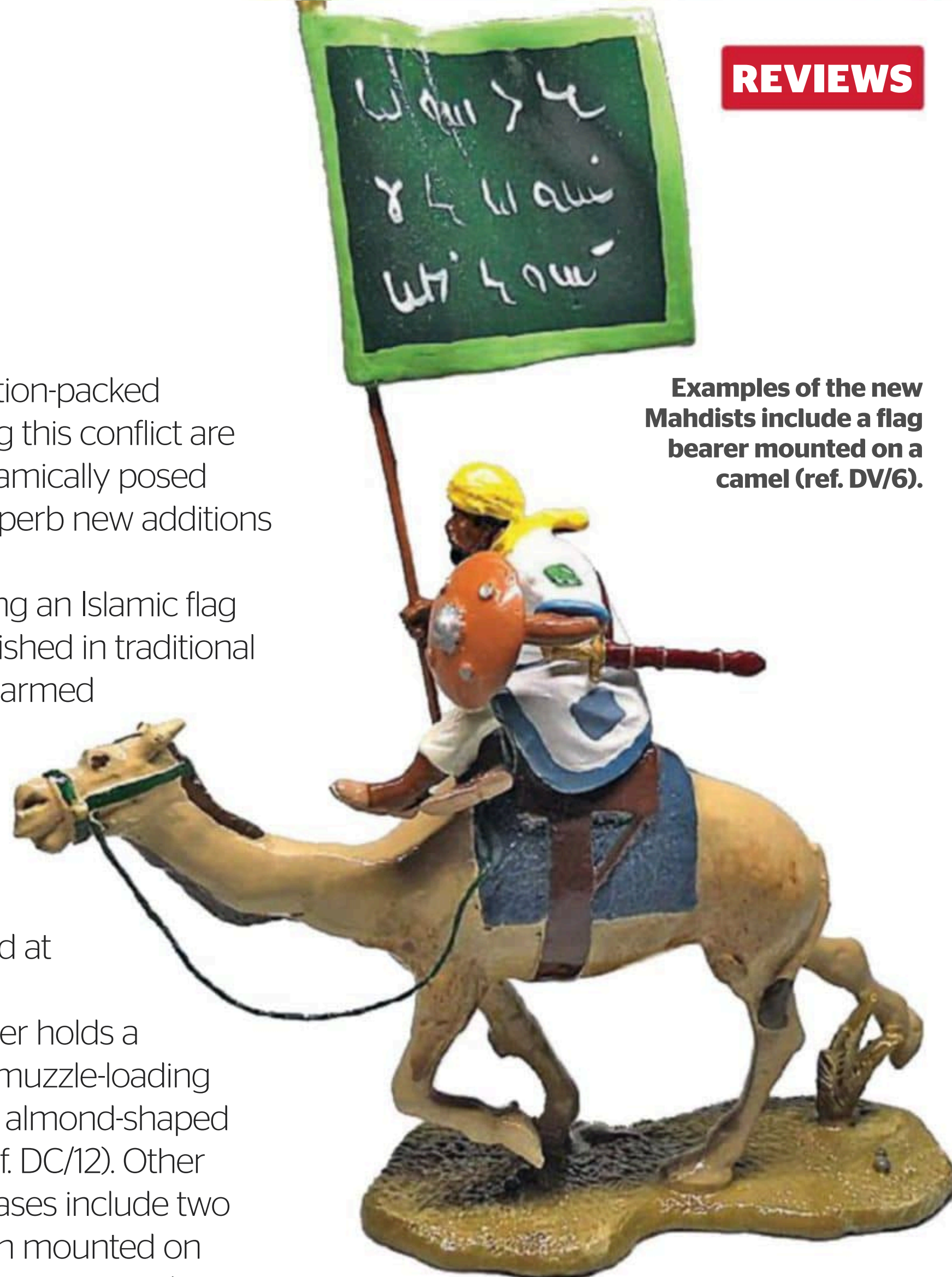
Those three fellows riding 'ships of the desert' are sold singly for £39.50.

A Dervish mounted on a speedy white Arabian steed gallops with purpose while wearing a white

*taqiyah* and holding a short spear and an almond-shaped shield (ref. DV/10). Riding a palomino-coloured mount with a flowing mane, the second fighting man is armed with a long-barrelled rifle and shield (ref. DV/11). A Dervish tribesman charging on a coal-black horse brandishes a vicious-looking two-headed axe (ref. DV/13). All three horsemen are priced at £39.50.



**Horse rider with spear (ref. DV/10).**

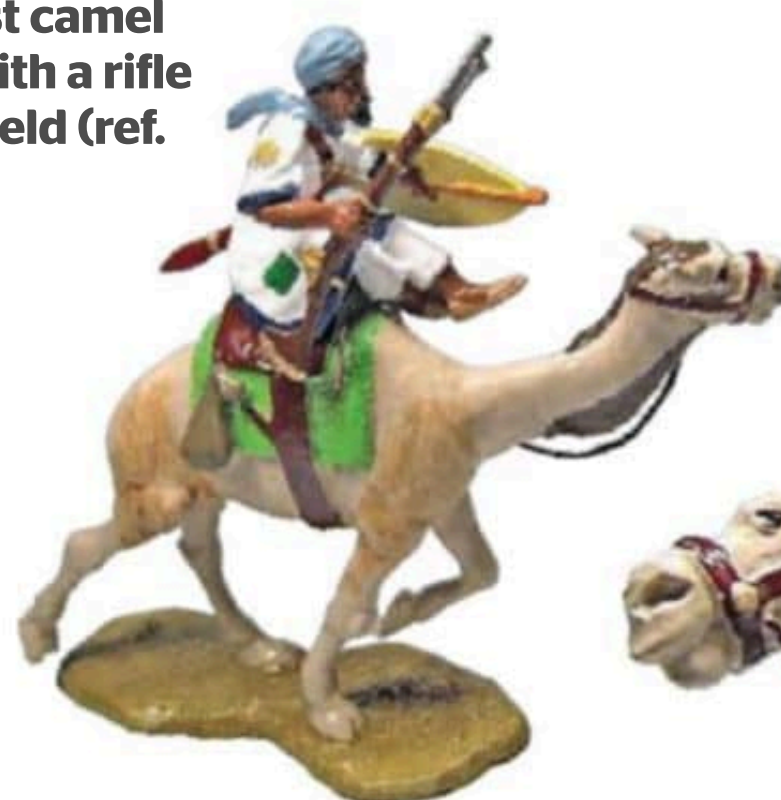


**Examples of the new Mahdists include a flag bearer mounted on a camel (ref. DV/6).**

## CONTACT

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**Mahdist camel rider with a rifle and shield (ref. DC/12).**



**Dervish horseman brandishes a vicious-looking two-headed axe (ref. DV/13).**



**Dervish horseman with a rifle (ref. DV/11).**



**Dervish camel rider wearing a conical helmet (ref. DV/2).**





**'101st Airborne Division Private Marching'**  
(ref. WW 262).



**'101st Airborne Division Private Marching'**  
(ref. WW 263).



**'101st Airborne Division Private Marching 2'**  
(ref. WW 258).

## Kronprinz Toy Soldiers Operation Market Garden US 101st Airborne Division

Reviewed by George Phillips

I never cease to be amazed by the output of Kronprinz Toy Soldiers. For a small-scale artisan producer based deep in the Spanish countryside, this brand pumps out a constant stream of high-quality, 1/30-scale collectable figures for hobbyists.

Among the latest items is a new series depicting World War II paratroopers of the US Army's 101st Airborne Division, also known as the 'Screaming Eagles'. Kronprinz proprietor Emilio Arredondo told me that he designed these figures with the unit's engagements during Operation Market Garden in mind.

The 101st played a critical role in the Allied attempt in September 1944 to secure a swift advance into the Nazi-occupied Netherlands and pave the way for an invasion of Germany. As part of a broader airborne assault, the 101st was assigned to capture key bridges and towns in the region around Eindhoven, Son and Veghel. Those objectives were crucial for ensuring the advance of British ground forces, specifically the armoured units of the British 30 Corps, up the single main road leading to Arnhem, where the British 1st Airborne Division would attempt to secure the northernmost bridge over the Rhine.

### Parachute Drop

On 17 September, the 101st Airborne conducted a large-scale parachute drop and glider landing into the Dutch countryside. It encountered unexpected resistance from German forces.

Under the command of Major General Maxwell D. Taylor, one of the unit's primary objectives was to capture the bridge over the Wilhelmina Canal at Son. Frustratingly for Taylor, the bridge was blown up by German engineers just before the paratroopers could seize it. Despite the setback, engineers of the 101st quickly constructed a temporary bridge, allowing 30 Corps to continue its advance.

Taylor's leadership was instrumental in the efforts of the 101st to capture and hold key bridges and towns in the Netherlands in the face of savage German counterattacks. This effort was crucial to the success of the operation's objective of establishing an Allied corridor toward Arnhem. Ultimately, the operation failed to secure the bridge over the Rhine at Arnhem, its most important objective.



**'101st Airborne Division Private Marching 1'**  
(ref. WW 257).



**'101st Airborne Division NCO'**  
(ref. WW 256).



**'101st Airborne Division Private Running'**  
(ref. WW 254)





**'101st Airborne Division Firing Carbine'**  
(ref. 252).



**'101st Airborne Division 'Radio Operator & Officer''**  
(ref. WW 253).



**'101st Airborne Division Sergeant'**  
(ref. WW 247).

## Para Poses

Kronprinz has released a first batch of thirteen 101st Airborne paratroopers in a range of marching, advancing and combat poses. They include a 'Private Marching' (ref. WW 263). Though based on a simple sculpt of a paratrooper with an M1 Garand rifle slung over his right shoulder, the pose is well executed. It is well complemented by another figure walking with an unslung Garand (ref. WW 262) and a private with a slung Garand marching with a longer stride (ref. WW 258).

The next three poses are a little more animated, including 'Private Marching 1' (ref. WW 257) holding his Garand in his right hand. A 'NCO' (ref. WW 256) is shouting while advancing with a semi-automatic M1 carbine and a field dressing strapped to his steel helmet. The 'Private Running' (ref. WW 254) advances to engage the enemy.

Four other poses add communications capability and some good old-fashioned American firepower into the mix. The two-piece 'Radio Operator & Officer' set (ref. WW 253) is well thought out and nicely



**'101st Airborne Division Firing M1 Garand'**  
(ref. 251).

composed. The firepower is provided by a paratrooper standing emptying the clip of his M1 carbine at the enemy (ref. WW 252) and another laying down fire from his Garand (ref. WW 251).

The final three poses add extra detail and realism to the range. A 'Captain' (ref. WW 248) studying the local Dutch terrain on a military map with a Thompson submachine gun slung over his right shoulder is well executed. There is also a no-nonsense 'Sergeant' (ref. WW 247) armed with a Tommy gun in a pose quite similar to one of the Airfix plastic US Paratroopers I owned as a child. The final figure is another 'Officer' (ref. WW 246) with his steel helmet removed and a sober expression on his face. You can decide his backstory for yourself.

The individual figures are priced at €37 and the two-piece officer and radio operator set retails for €65.

Emilio has also introduced some US 82nd Airborne Division figures to his 1/30-scale range that I hope to review in a future issue.



**'101st Airborne Division Captain'**  
(ref. WW 248).

**'101st Airborne Division 'Officer''**  
(ref. WW 246).

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# A Change of Scene

Contributing Editor George Phillips interviews Lee Smithson of UK-based Sheffield Miniatures, who has acquired assets of John Gittins' JG Miniatures to boost the scope of his own scenic offerings to hobbyists.

Text: George Phillips Photos: Sheffield Miniatures



**World War II 'Bastogne Base 2' (ref. JGBBA02).** This maker's photos include figures and vehicles by King & Country Ltd.

**Q: First of all, Lee, many congratulations for acquiring such a popular and well-respected business. What is your own background in the toy soldier hobby?**

A: I've had a fascination with miniatures, art and history from an early age. As a child, I made and customised military models. This hobby expanded as I began to recreate iconic local buildings in miniature and gradually started to sell them. Since buying the JG Miniatures brand, I've been learning more and more about toy soldier collecting. I've started to buy this magazine and am ordering back copies to enhance my knowledge of this fascinating hobby and the ranges available to collectors.

**Q: When did you launch Sheffield Miniatures?**

A: Sheffield Miniatures was established in 2016. I started taking commissions for scenic, framed miniatures of people's private homes, businesses and historical buildings. This slowly evolved into me selling my work in local shops and taking on more commission work. I began to tackle increasingly challenging projects including boats, fairground rides, aircraft, football stadiums, movie scenes



**'Small Details Range' offerings include a new 'Observer Corps Spotting Table (Post Instrument)' (ref. SMM01).**

and steam engines. My background in engineering and electronics has also enabled me to build in features such as motion and lighting to add further realism and interest.

**Q: What JG Miniatures assets did you acquire from John Gittins?**

A: John approached me early in 2023 with regards to buying the moulds,

masters, tools and machinery, along with the rights to continue producing the entire JG Miniatures catalogue of toy soldier scenery pieces.

He kindly agreed to take the time to train me on everything I needed to know to continue producing the pieces to his own high standards and specifications.



**Friends John Gittins and Lee Smithson are shown from the left keeping their eyes on scenic details for collectors.**



**'Machine Gun Nest (Summer Grass Version)' (ref. M08).**





**'Split Rail Fence X 2' (ref. M12).**



**Q: Who is working with you at Sheffield Miniatures?**

A: I create most of the items for Sheffield Miniatures, although John continues to support and advise me, helping out and continuing to pass on his invaluable knowledge of the toy soldier world. We generally have a good chat while working and he shares his ideas and knowledge -- not only relating to the business. We often listen to podcasts together and discuss a wide range of topics including history, politics and nature. We have become good friends while working together.

My dad recently retired and has been helping out with the casting when I've had large backloads of work to

complete. This has been invaluable while I've

been getting up to speed with running the business full time. Taking on the JG Miniatures range has enabled me to become self-employed and I feel very lucky to have turned my passion for making miniatures into my full-time job.

**Q: Through which channels do you sell your products?**

A: My items are available directly through my own website and can be shipped worldwide. I can provide approximate shipping quotes to interested customers. They are also available via Treefrog

Treasures, Hobby Bunker and Sierra Toy Soldier Company in the USA, Maison Militaire in the UK, and Le Royaume du Soldat in Belgium. I'm trying to expand the business to dealers in other countries where possible.



**'Machine Gun Nest' (ref. M07).**



**Various scenic elements are combined to create a ruined building on a street corner.**



**Q: What do you offer to collectors now?**

A: I offer the entire JG Miniatures range under the Sheffield Miniatures brand, and work hard to ensure the items are of the same standard as those provided by John. I am also developing a range of new items in 1/32 and 1/30 scales. These can be found in the 'Small Details Range' on my website and I plan to continue to develop and add to this range. I have designed detailed 1/32 and 1/30 scale 'loose guns' packs from the World War II era for American, British, German and Russian



**Ancient Roman 'Bust of Emperor on Plinth' (ref. N09B).**



## FEATURE: MAKER PROFILE

'Street Base for K&C Halftrack Mortar' (ref. JGBBA05)



World War II 'Arnhem House Centre Section' (ref. AH1A).



Examples of weaponry available from the 'Small Details Range' by Sheffield Miniatures.



forces. I have also added some garden miniatures in the same scales. Right now, I'm exploring new items I think could be produced to add to the vast range of toy soldier items already on offer. To this end, I'm very keen to hear from collectors on any ideas that they may have for new items to complement the toy soldier ranges available.

In addition to the JG Miniatures range of items, I also offer bespoke commission work and will consider practically any scale or theme from one-off items to full dioramas in 1/30, 1/32 or other scales using a wide range of construction materials

Readers are welcome to get in touch using the contact details that are included with this interview. I look forward very much to hearing from them.

**George:** Thank you for your time and best of luck for the future with Sheffield Miniatures!

**Lee:** Thank you, my pleasure!

'Garden Shed' (ref. SMG01) complete with interior details.



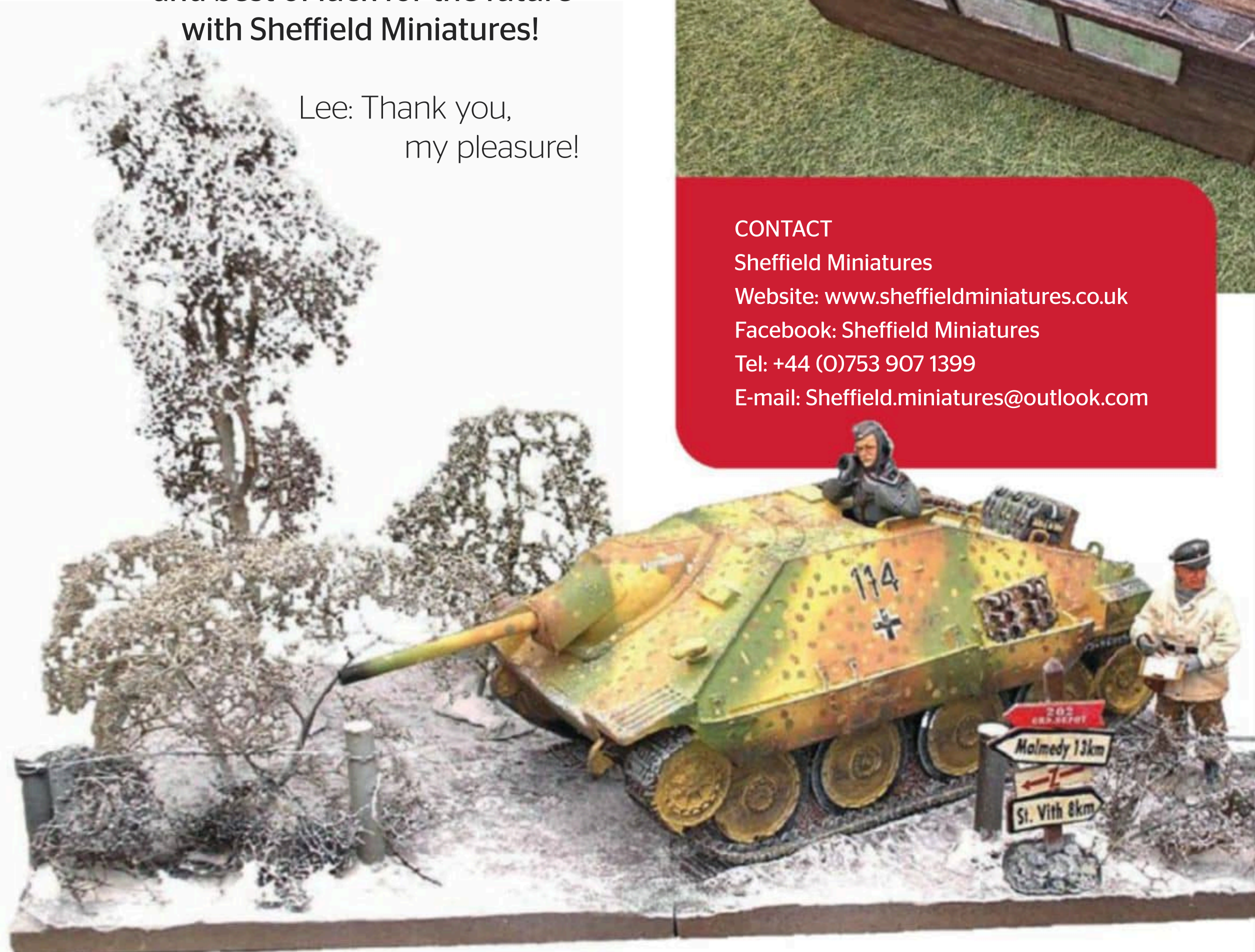
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*TSC&HF* Contributing Editor  
**George Phillips**

is an award-winning features writer and editor with 30 years' experience in publishing. An enthusiastic student of ancient Greek history, he has a deep interest in the Persian War, the Peloponnesian War and the campaigns of Alexander the Great. George's interest in military miniatures was reignited 25 years ago and he has been writing for this magazine for twenty years in an experience he describes as "fascinating and rewarding."



Wintertime 'Tank Base' (ref. JGBBG05) for tracked vehicles such as this World War II German Hetzer tank destroyer.



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# The Windy City Show Blows Away Collectors

Editor **Stuart A. Hessney** covers the action at the second edition of the annual Chicagoland Toy Soldier Show.

Text and Photos: **Stuart A. Hessney**

By all accounts, the second edition of the Chicagoland Toy Soldier Show staged at the suburban Marriott Chicago Schaumburg on Sunday, 24 September, proved to be a resounding success based on both measurable factors and the smiles on happy people's faces.

It was a noticeable contrast from last year's inaugural US show but for good reason. The Chicagoland show's forebearer was the Chicago Toy Soldier Show first staged in 1981. Ultimately its last organisers, Roger and Jan Garfield and their daughter Gillian, felt compelled to cancel the 2023 show because of an impasse in timely negotiating suitable terms with new management at the Hyatt Regency Schaumburg hotel. The sad news sent shockwaves through our hobby.

as a relatively last-minute replacement. He decided to take the plunge fully knowing that he would have to deal with juggling demanding traders and a zillion little details right down mapping out table placements and physically having to set them up. It was a tremendous challenge but he got it done and paved the way for this year's show to unfold much more smoother.

"This year was a breeze," Matt said. "Most of it was all set before I showed up and there weren't any new obstacles thrown my way."

He added, "Steve Chong, a long-time collector and friend, volunteered to help keep the room trading assignments list up to date. That made my life much easier."

## Room Trading

As usual, some traders arrived on the Tuesday before the show and hotel room trading got under way the next afternoon by Hobby Bunker and a dozen others. At its peak, the world's largest temporary toy soldier mall was spread out among 100 rooms on five floors. My routine is to arrive early the Friday morning before the show, but I never can make it around to all the rooms by Saturday evening because I shop too much, spend lots of time admiring 'unicorns' I've never seen before and I enjoy chatting with old and new friends.

The 2024 show accounted for 693 hotel room nights bookings, up about 100 more than last year, according to



**Michael Sreckov of Warring Warbirds recruited help from Marcus Thorsen and figures from W. Britain Model Figures and other makers to create a 6-by-6ft diorama based on the 1882 Battle of Tel El Kebir in Egypt in which an entrenched Egyptian force led by Ahmed 'Urabi was defeated by a British army commanded by Lieutenant General Garnet Wolseley. This diorama was the talk of the show and it was sold.**

Matt. The Marriott limits how many guests can be afforded the show's special room rate and won't sell out to just one group. But Matt provided the hotel with a list of traders so even if they weren't in the 'group' per se, they were placed in rooms on selling floors. Other people stayed in nearby places such as the former show's Hyatt venue and a relatively new Holiday Inn Express right next door to the Marriott.

The lesson to be learned from this situation is don't dawdle. If you plan to go and want to enjoy the host hotel's special room rate for the show, book promptly when the window of time opens next year.

## Hobby Showtime

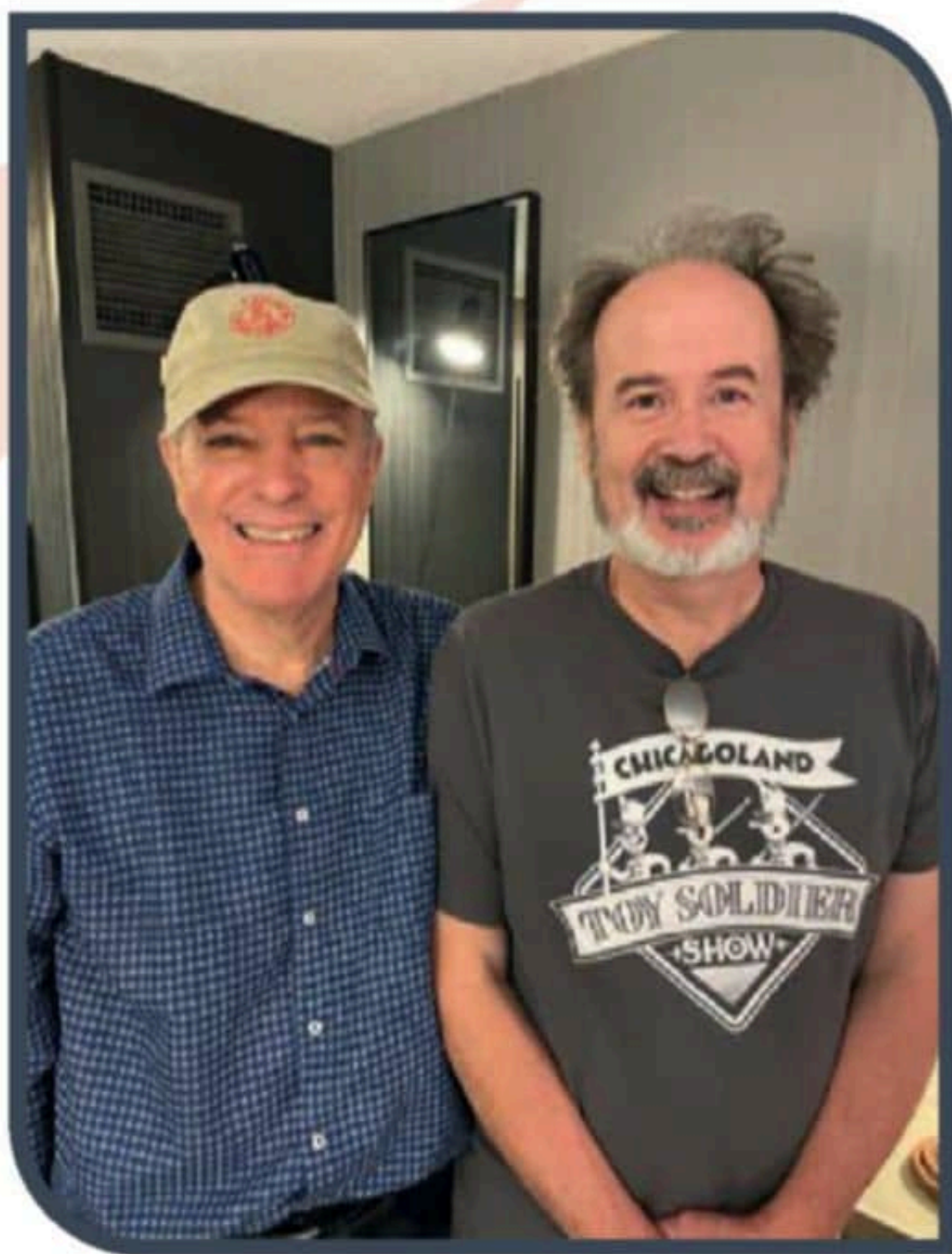
Paid admissions to Sunday's show totalled 405 adults plus dozens of children who were given a different colour wristband. The kids weren't counted, but I saw them everywhere getting their tote bags filled with plastic and metal figures by generous traders cultivating the next generation of enthusiasts.



**Hobby Bunker's Matt Murphy helmed the show.**

Then collector Matthew Murphy, who is the proprietor of the Boston's area's Hobby Bunker shop and runs shows on both the East and West Coasts, was basically drafted by acclamation to organise the first Chicagoland show





New England dealers Daniel Jones and Dougald Parkinson are shown from the left. They were selling vintage and New Toy Soldiers by a wide array of makers.

W. Britain Model Figures was the only major manufacturer on hand beginning Saturday. Ericka and Kenneth A. Osen and their team brought along a myriad of matt-finished 1/30-scale figures singly and in eye catching diorama settings along with examples their fledging Campaign Miniatures range of model figure and vehicle kits.

I was very impressed how many collectors were seeking out a new World War II personality figure that I had reviewed in *TSC&HF* issue 118. It is titled 'US Marine Eugene Sledge, 1944-45' (ref. 13095) and it is a homage to a man who experienced intense combat



Italian dealer Stefano Allorini of Saimex Toy Soldiers at left and his helper Danilo Tramontano flank Madrid shop proprietor Luis Martinez.

against Japanese forces on Peleliu and Okinawa during. Sledge went on to become university professor and authored the 1981 memoir *With the Old Breed: At Peleliu and Okinawa*. Filmmaker Ken Burns used the book as source material for his PBS documentary *The War* (2007). In addition, the book was adapted for the HBO dramatic miniseries *The Pacific* (2010) with actor Joseph Mazzello portraying Sledge. The veteran died at age 77 in 2001. W. Britain produced the figure with the permission and cooperation of the Sledge family.

## Positive Feedback

Attendance at Sunday's show was great, but Matt thought it might have been even better if 'monsoon rains' weren't pouring down all morning.

Besides making the pilgrimage from all over the United States, traders and shoppers in attendance hailed from the United Kingdom, Belgium, Spain, Canada, France, Australia and Spain. Italy was represented by very amiable dealer Stefano Allorini of Saimex Toy Soldiers, a stalwart at the London shows organised by Guideline Publications, the parent company of this magazine. Stefano and his helper Danilo Tramontano were enjoying chatting with Luis Martinez from the El Infante military miniatures shop in Madrid.

Matt reported, "All the vendor feedback by Sunday was 100 per cent positive. Three or four guys came up to me, including one who had been selling at Chicago shows for 30-plus years, and they said it was the best show they ever had!"

The organiser added, "Buying was brisk. I think people attacked it like it was the last show that will ever happen."

I certainly went overboard so I for one know that feeling. Now me and legions of other enthusiasts are looking forward to the 2025 Chicagoland show scheduled for Sunday, 28 September, at the same place. This reporter looks forward to seeing many *TSC&HF* readers and longtime friends there while enjoying the great pleasure of making new acquaintances.

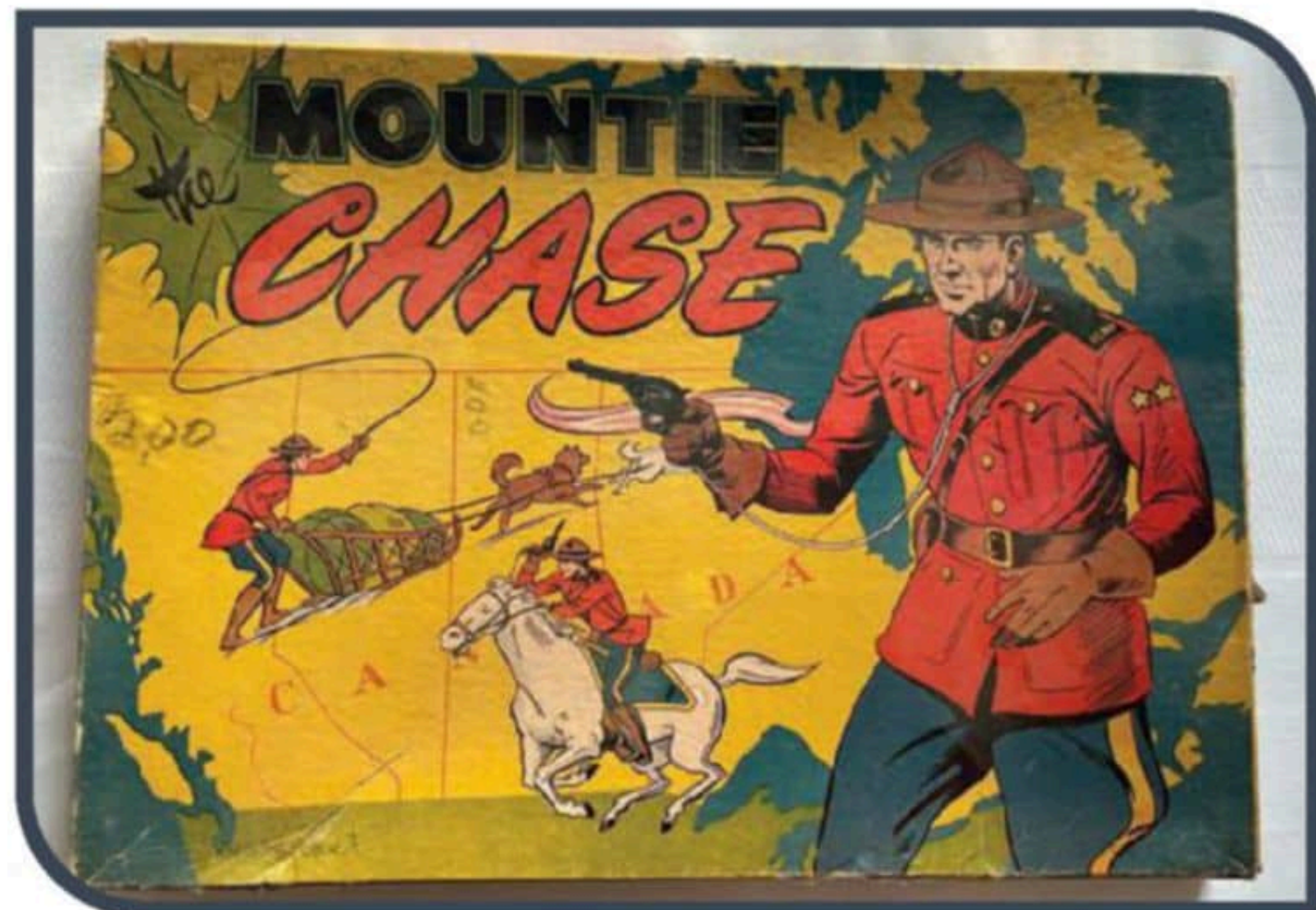


Hobby Bunker's vast offerings included a slew of intriguing sets of plastic figures made in Spain by Jescan from 1955-1981.





Sven De Braekeleir, proprietor of the Peter Nathan Toy Soldiers shop in Sydney, Australia, made the trip by way of Japan to show off scenic items such as Ancient Roman shops made under his own Last Post Miniatures banner in partnership with Frank Sultana.



Virginians Jan and Roger Garfield brought everything from old plastic playsets to colourful items like this colourful 'Mountie Chase' game from the 1950s.



An example of wonderful artwork by my longtime friend Doug Dearth, the *TSC&HF* cartoonist and graphic designer for W. Britain Model Figures.



Old Britains 'Village Idiots' figures, which are politically incorrect favourites of mine, were for sale by Nebraskan Frank Way of Trains and Toy Soldiers.



Figurart L'Atelier des Collections of France's Benjamin Zerbib and his wife Helen Bouch joined forces to create beautifully rendered Coronation figures of the United Kingdom's King Charles III and Queen Camilla. Benjamin came to the show with Nassim Medjaoui, who was selling fascinating French-made old toy soldiers and has shared his expertise by writing a book about them reviewed elsewhere in this edition.



Cody Heeley and Alex Gnauden from California's Sierra Toy Soldier Company offered a terrific selection of releases from John Jenkins Designs including these Plains Indians warriors.



Craig Remington unveiled his plans to open a new toy soldier shop in Stuart, Florida.





Military and civilian themes were covered by highly detailed and lifelike figures showcased in vignettes by W. Britain Model Figures, including these World War II US Army GIs and a Sherman tank.

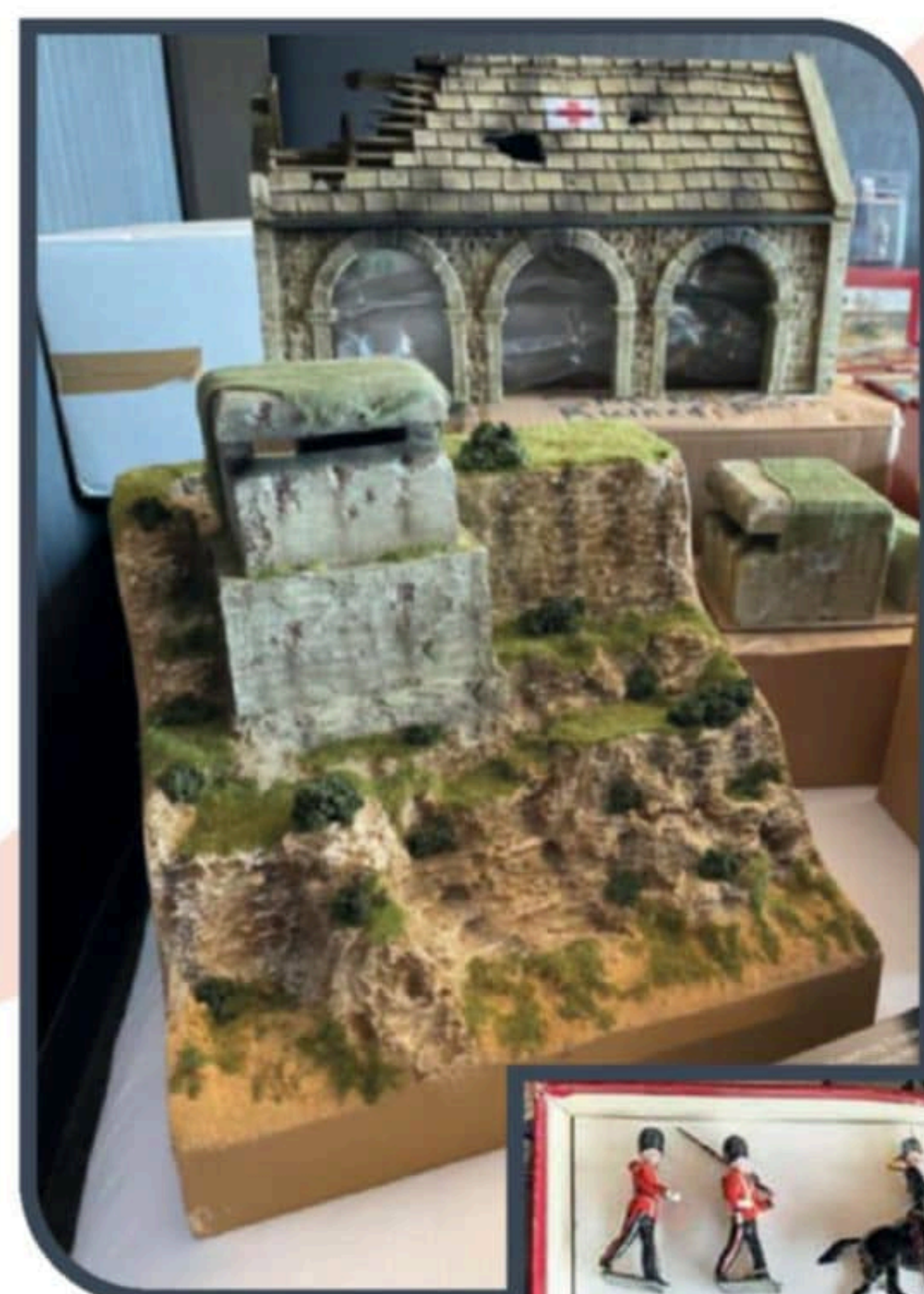


Members of the South Carolina Military Miniatures Society included Roger Jacobs and Dennis Fontana, who were selling a Crimean War Charge of the Light Brigade diorama recently spotlighted in *TSC&HF* issue 119.

A newly released World War II personality figure of 'U.S. Marine Eugene Sledge, 1944-45' (ref. 13095) by W. Britain Model Figures drew great interest at the show. (Photo Courtesy of the Maker)



It was great to catch up with Californian Deanna Versteeg, formerly of Toy Soldiers of San Diego, who was selling items from her late husband Nick's collection.



US dealer Julie Abraham of Treefrog Treasures is flanked by her husband Aron Robison and Tom Dubel from the left.

Examples of scenic items made in the UK by Lee Smithson of Sheffield Miniatures available for sale from Treefrog Treasures.



Plastics specialist Mike Kutnick debuted new playsets produced by BMC Toys.

Expert collector Frank Leo was selling this one and only example of the old Britains Set 1818: 'Royal Fusiliers, Hussars and Scots Guards.'



## FEATURE: NEWS REPORT FROM THE HOBBY'S FRONT LINES



Ken Ciak of LOD Enterprises exhibited eye-catching 6in resin figures of 'Heroes & Aliens' created in conjunction with production of a new science fiction movie titled *Another Plan From Outer Space 2: The Doomed*. Ken mentioned that he is getting a producer credit on the film and it is expected to premiere soon.



Nate Fogt, the imaginative craftsman behind the Nate's Garage brand, offered a British Nile River gunboat of the Mahdist Wars and a whole lot more.

‘All the vendor feedback by Sunday was 100 per cent positive. Three or four guys came up to me, including one who had been selling at Chicago shows for 30-plus years, and they said it was the best show they ever had!’



Ohioan Dan Beidelschies of Austin Miniatures offered everything from plastic Old West gunfighters to World War II US Marines.



Treefrog Treasures brought lots of 1/30-scale products by Thomas Gunn Miniatures such as this World War II German soldier.

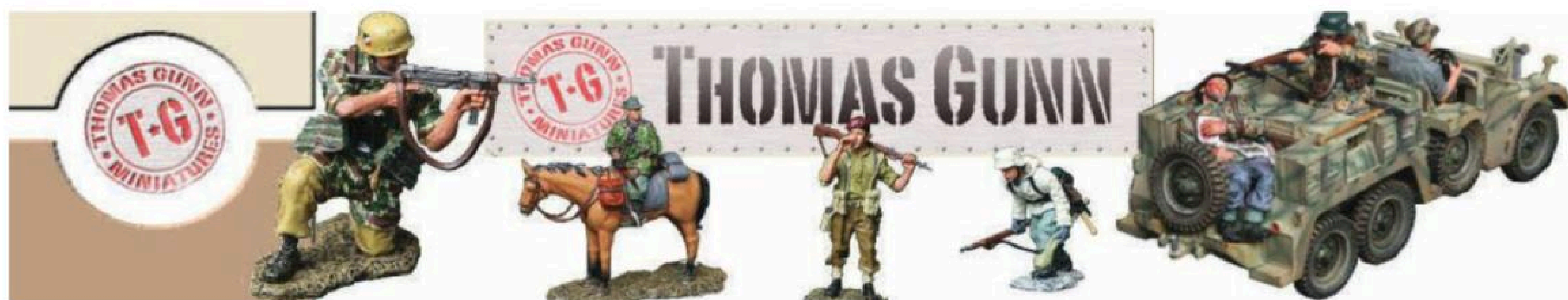


A wide variety of plastics by a host of makers was available.

I had no choice but to buy this Four Feathers Dracula set from Stefano Allorini of Saimex Toy Soldiers because my wife Sally is a huge fan of Halloween and the horror genre.







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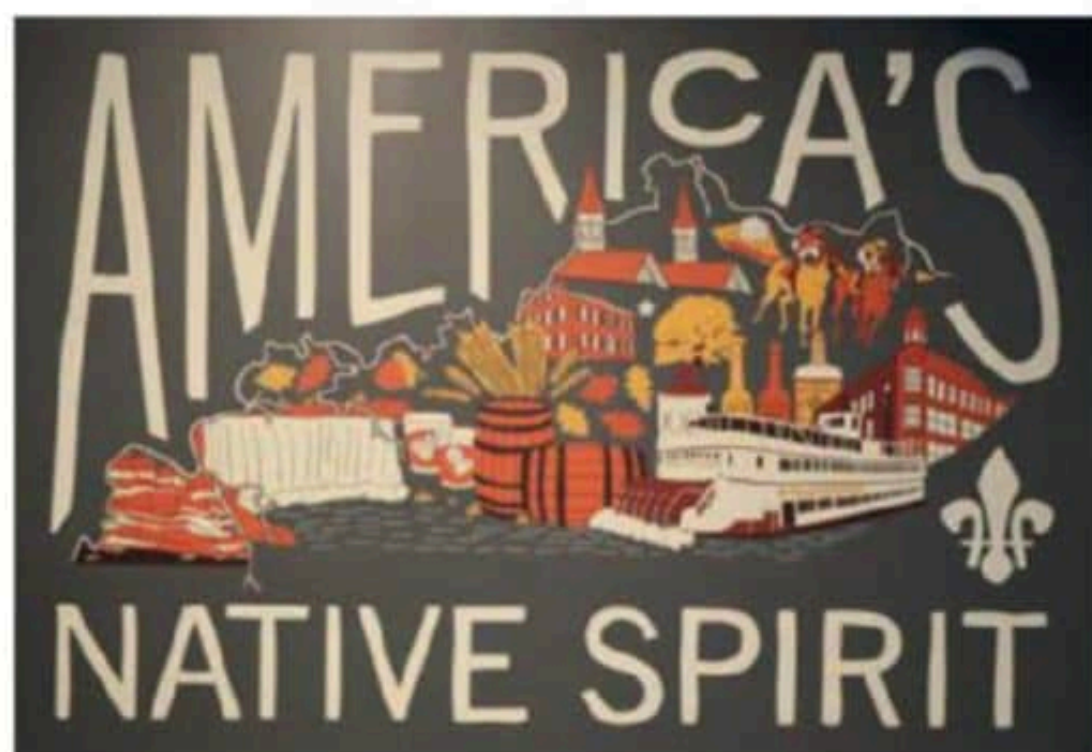
# Britains & Bourbon In the Bluegrass State



**Clyde Cocke** chronicles how he and his pal Editor Stuart A. Hessney followed up September's Chicagoland show by visiting a Louisville museum's toy soldier collection and exploring the Kentucky Bourbon Trail.

Text: Clyde Cocke    Photos: Clyde Cocke and Stuart A. Hessney

I can't think of a better way for myself and my friend *TSC&HF* Editor Stuart A. Hessney, a fellow toy soldier aficionado and bourbon lover, than to have followed-up the USA's outstanding Chicagoland Toy Soldier Show on Sunday, 22 September, by visiting Louisville, Kentucky. After twisting both of Stuart's arms to convince him to take an extra four days of travel time to visit Kentucky, we drove more than five hours south to Louisville on Monday.



Sign at the entrance to Louisville's Frazier History Museum.

The city's Frazier History Museum on West Main Street displays more than 13,000 toy soldiers. It also hosts the free Kentucky Bourbon Trail Welcome Center on its first floor and paid admission includes a fascinating exhibition called 'The Spirit of Kentucky' on the third floor.

There is even a Prohibition-era Ford truck loaded with casks parked out front and a simulation of how white oak barrels of bourbon aged in rickhouses at distilleries are rolled out for bottling and distribution. It made us thirsty (for knowledge) before we even entered the downtown museum.

## Bourbon Lore

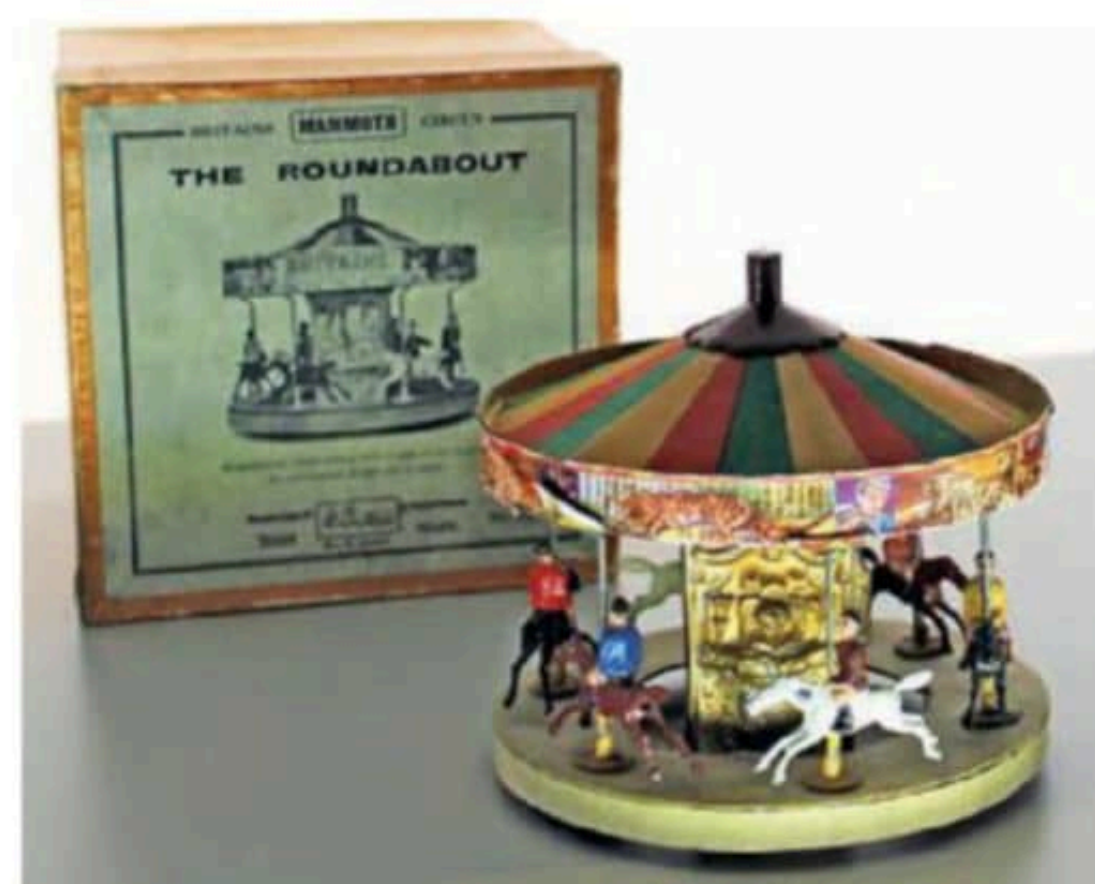
The French have champagne and the Scots their whisky, but America's only native drink hails from Kentucky.



A Prohibition-era Ford truck loaded with bourbon barrels is parked in front of the museum.

During the mid-1750s, settlers from Virginia started distilling whiskey using corn instead of other grains. To honour the French royal family for their aid during the American Revolution, one of the state of Kentucky's nine original counties was named Bourbon Country in 1785.

In 1964, the US Congress defined bourbon as being produced in America with at least 51 per cent corn and aged only in new oak barrels. Kentucky bourbon must be distilled and bottled in the state.



'The Roundabout' from the 1930s Britains 'Mammoth Circus' range.

Our tour guide stated, "Ninety-nine per cent of bourbon is made in Kentucky and the rest is counterfeit."

## Stewart Collection

Our first stop in the 'Bluegrass State' before we could wet our whistles with a bourbon tasting was to visit the museum's Charles W. Stewart Historic Miniatures Collection. He started collecting toy soldiers as a young boy. Charles W. Stewart has generously donated more than 30,000 figures to the Frazier and it currently displays



Britains 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs' boxed set licensed from Walt Disney and only made from 1938-1939.



approximately 13,000 figures and related items from 80 countries and more than 180 makers. It is regarded as one of the world's largest collections of toy soldiers and historical figures on permanent public display.

Some of the major makers represented include W. Britain, CBG Mignot, Heyde, Vertunni, Elastolin, Lineol and Heinrichsen. Displays feature rare flats, demi-round and fully-round miniatures, toy boats and castles.

Charming Britains sets included a 'Mammoth Circus' carousel and 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs'. A castle play area with plastic figures for children sits in the centre of one of the multiple galleries lined with display cases filled with figures.

One of the many highlights is an



**Bottom tray of the Britains pre-World War II Set 132, the third largest display set ever made.**

known pre-World War set. After the war, it was succeeded by 54mm cadets by Timpo Toys to go with a larger wooden barracks.

guessed two out of the three bottles correctly. But we left feeling good.

We walked through the museum's gallery of current production Kentucky

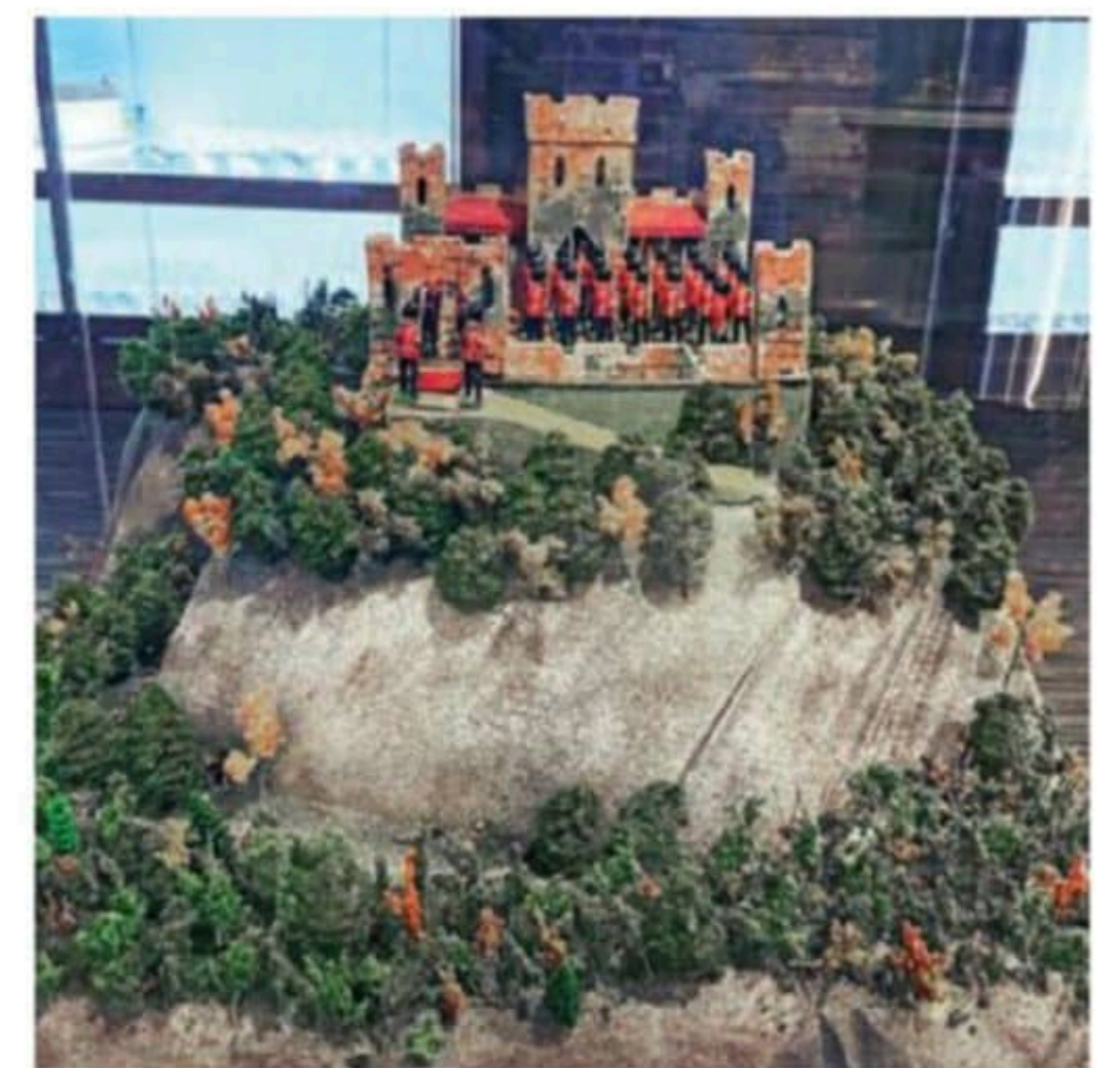


**Heyde West Point cadets sold by FAO Schwarz march in front of barracks from 1930s.**

example of the Britains pre-World War II Set 132 display box. Its 167 cavalry, infantry and artillery pieces packed in a wooden case rank it as the UK maker's second largest prewar set. A Heyde 48mm set made in Germany for FAO Schwarz, the oldest US toy retailer, depicts West Point cadets marching out of their barracks. It is the only

## Blind Tasting

Our toy soldier nirvana was cut short as our very gracious host Greg Shoenbaechler, marketing manager for the museum, had arranged a blind bourbon tasting for us in the Frazier's atmospheric bar. We failed to identify any of the exact types, though Stuart



**Circa 1939 Britains Foot Guards garrison a castle made by Tri-ang Toys.**

bourbon bottles in glass cases. We were awed by seeing bottles of types such as Pappy Van Winkle that are as elusive as some of the rarest sets of old Britains and quite costly to boot.

Then Stuart discovered a secret door disguised as gallery shelves that pushed open into a speakeasy recreated for special Roaring Twenties events. Prohibition, America's failed experiment to stop the making and drinking of alcohol, lasted from 1919-1933.



**Hard to find and very expensive bottles of Pappy Van Winkle.**



**Stuart is amazed to find the secret entrance to the Frazier's speakeasy.**





**Clyde and Stuart are shown from the left at the Buffalo Trace Distillery.**

## Bourbon Hunting

After the museum closed, we walked around the neighbourhood to visit a few distilleries. There's a bourbon for every taste and Stuart got to try several of them during our visit because I was

Today the distillery makes some of the most sought-after bourbon brands in the world only available through allocation by distributors to selected retailers. We were lucky how the distillery gift shop's special bottle drop for purchase that day was Blanton's, the original single barrel bourbon.

During our Buffalo Trace tour, we observed the hand bottling and packing of Blanton's. Stuart bought a barrel stave to display all the metal racehorse bottle stoppers that are individually lettered to spell out Blanton's.

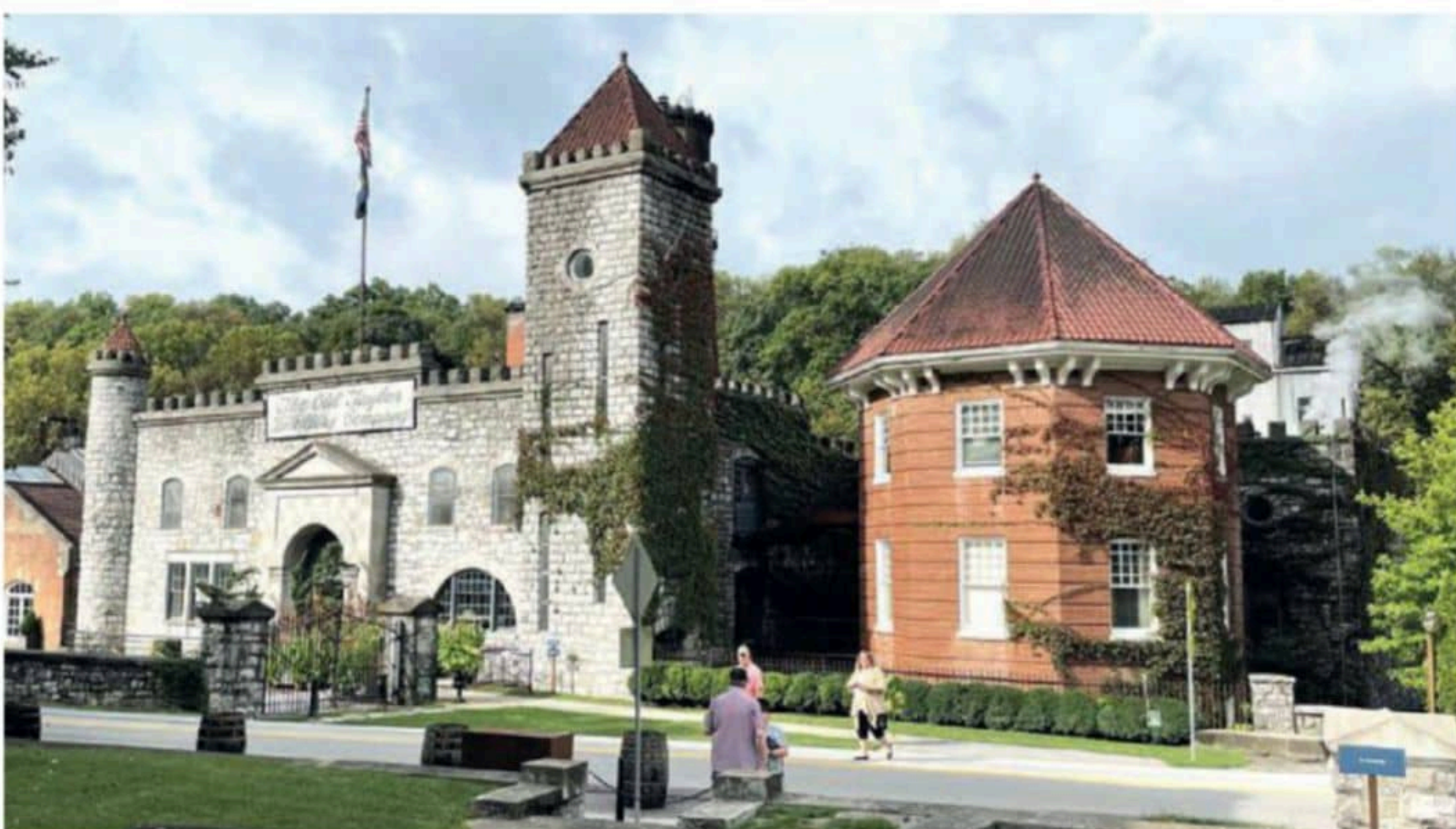
On our final day, we drove to a few other distilleries in the Frankfort and Versailles area. The most picturesque was Castle & Key in Woodford County. In 1887, Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr built the destination distillery to resemble a



**Bottling assembly line for Blanton's bourbon at the Buffalo Trace Distillery.**

the time to extend a visit to Chicago with a detour to Kentucky. He flew out early Thursday morning and I drove home.

I highly recommend anyone with a taste for whiskey -- whether it is Irish,



**Visiting the historic Castle & Key Distillery was one of the Kentucky Bourbon Trail's highlights.**

the designated driver.

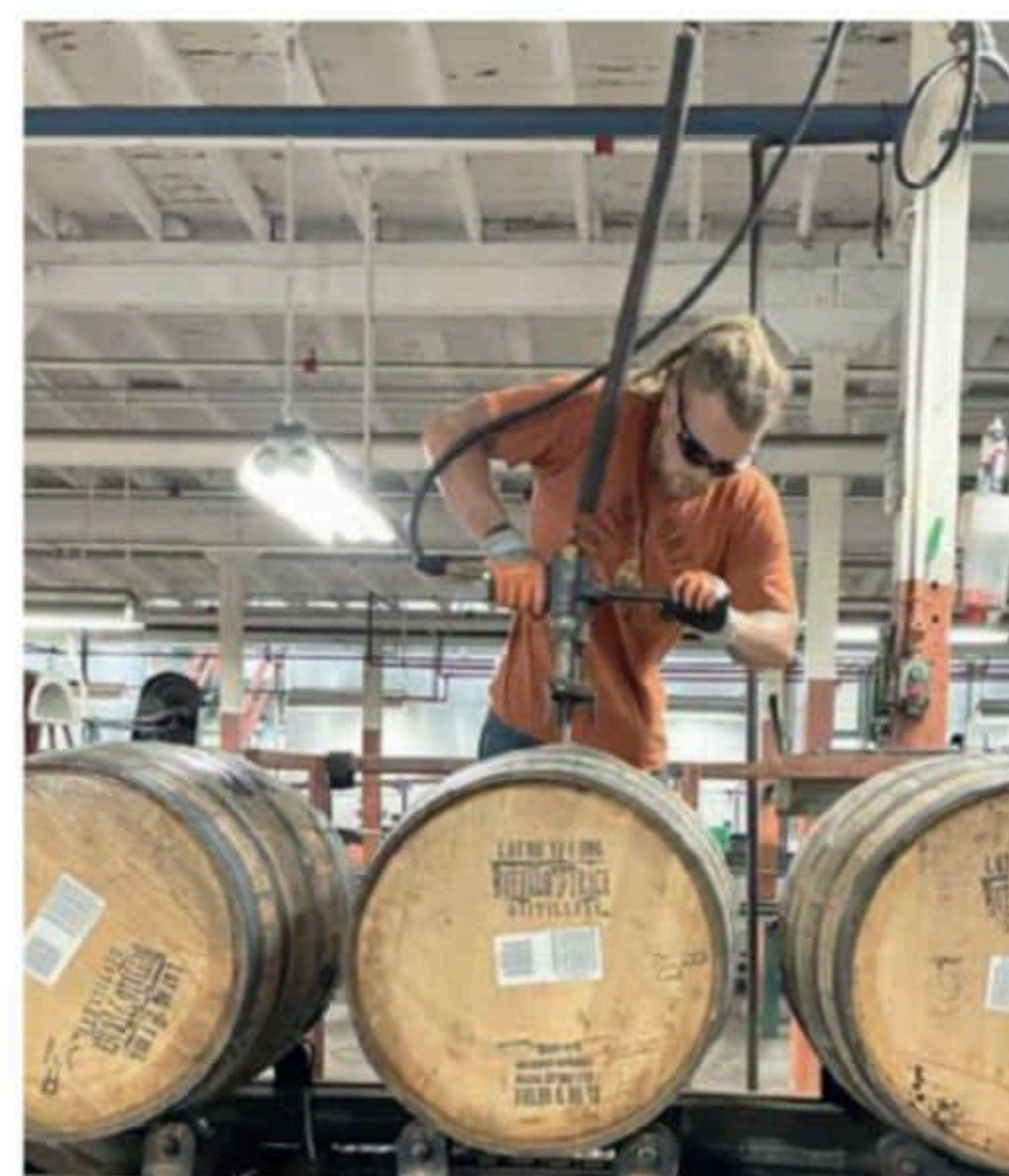
The next day we drove to Frankfort, Kentucky's state capital and the home of Buffalo Trace, the oldest continuously operated bourbon distillery. It sits on more than 400 acres along the Kentucky River.

During Prohibition it managed to secure a special license to continue producing bourbon for 'medicinal purposes.' Suddenly millions of doctor's prescriptions were written for bourbon.

castle along with a springhouse and sunken garden. He built a private rail line and station to bring in guests for lavish parties. In 2014, the abandoned Old Taylor Distillery was purchased and restored to resume producing bourbon as Castle & Key.

## Room Tasting

We ended our tour with our own bourbon tasting back at our hotel room. Stuart admitted it was well worth



**A wooden plug known as a bung is removed from a barrel to dump aged Buffalo Trace whiskey ready for proofing with water and bottling.**

American, Scottish, Canadian, Japanese or from elsewhere around the world -- to enjoy visiting Kentucky and tasting some of the smoothest kind in the world. After all, what better way could there be to spend a cold winter's night than to enjoy some bourbon while inspecting our toy troops.



**Horse race between four staves of bottle stoppers at Buffalo Trace. The metal figures' bases are marked with letters of the alphabet that can be collected to spell out the word Blanton's.**

## ABOUT THE WRITER

**Clyde W. Cocke** is a lifelong toy soldier collector and a 1977 graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point, New York. He is the author of the book *Pass in Review: An Illustrated History of West Point Cadets: 1794-Present*, published by Osprey Publishing in 2012.



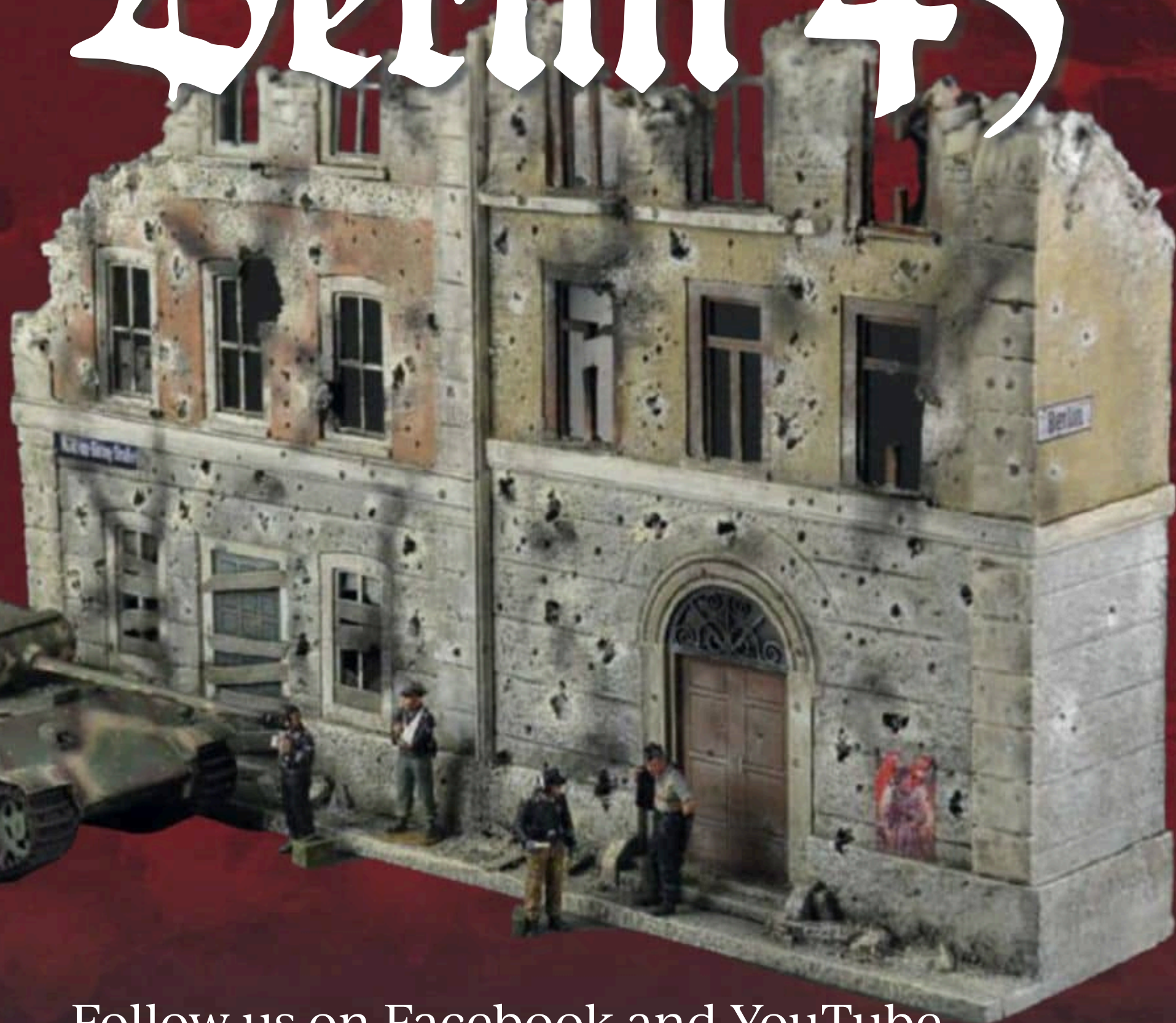


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# Hitler's Final Roll of the Dice: The Crucial Battle of the Bulge

**Contributing Editor George Phillips** commemorates the 80th anniversary of how German and Allied forces clashed in the frozen landscape of the Ardennes in an epic encounter.

Text: George Phillips

Photos: Various Sources

In December 1944, as Allied forces pressed deeper into German-occupied territory, the Third Reich launched one last desperate campaign on the Western Front. This offensive, known as the Battle of the Bulge, was the largest and bloodiest battle fought by US forces during World War II, accounting for around ten per cent of all American combat casualties during the conflict.

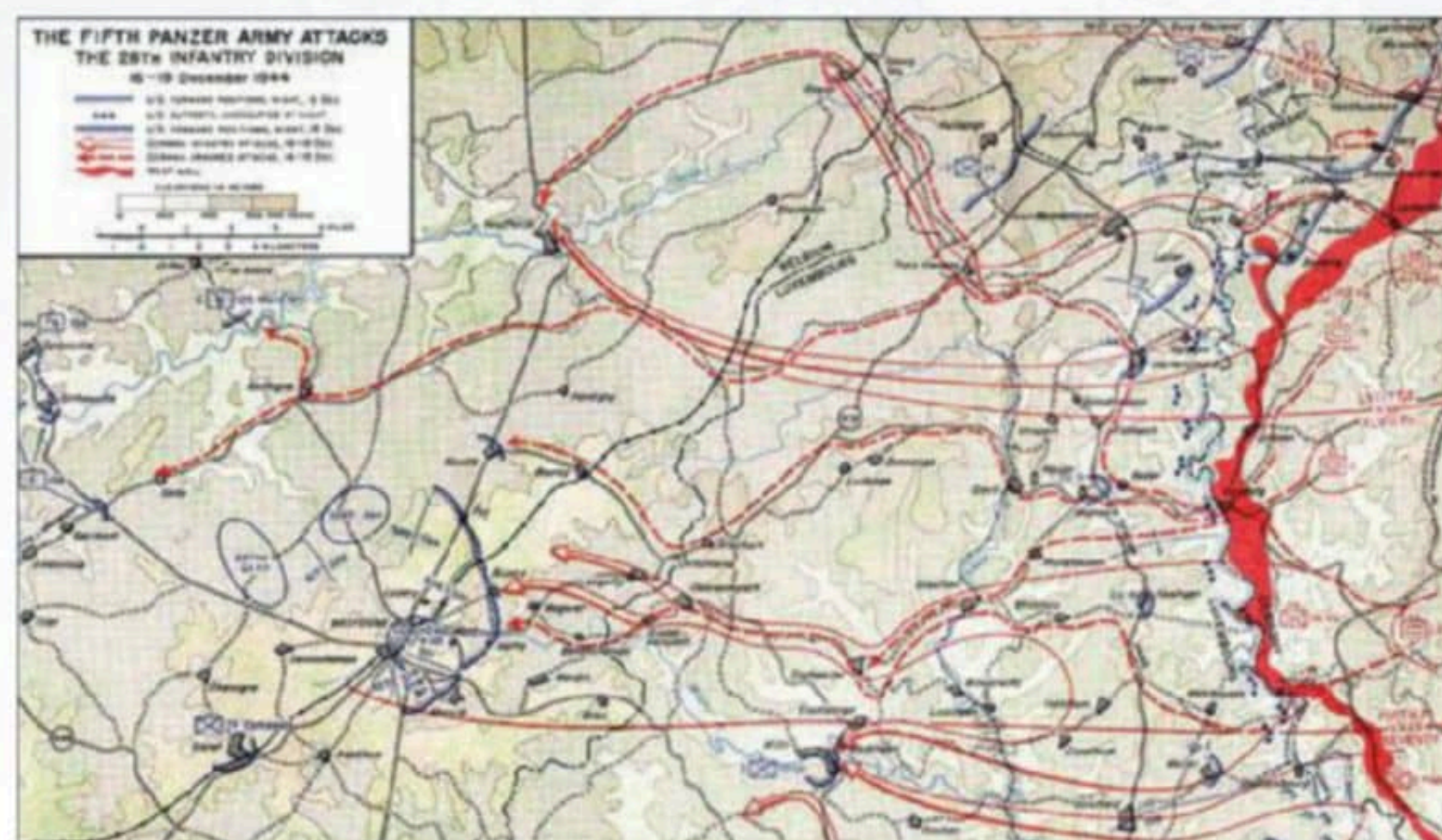


**German field commanders plan the surprise offensive. (Wikimedia Commons)**

It was also one of Nazi leader Adolf Hitler's final gambles – a bid to divide the Allies and turn the tide of a war that was swiftly moving toward Germany's defeat. What unfolded between 16 December, 1944, and 25 January, 1945, would become a critical moment in the conflict involving fierce fighting, treacherous winter conditions and a dramatic clash of armoured vehicles.

## The German Plan

By late 1944, the Third Reich was on the brink of collapse. The Allies had liberated Paris in August and German forces were being pushed back toward the Rhine River. On the Eastern Front, the Soviet Red Army was advancing inexorably toward Berlin.



**Hasso von Manteuffel led the Fifth Panzer Army in the middle attack route. (Wikimedia Commons)**

Despite this bleak strategic outlook, Hitler devised a bold plan to reclaim the initiative. He believed that if Germany could strike a decisive blow against the Allies on the Western Front, it might force them to negotiate peace on favourable terms, allowing him to focus on the Soviet threat.

Hitler's plan, codenamed Operation Watch on the Rhine, called for a massive surprise attack through the Ardennes



**Winter German Tiger tank and crew by K&C.**

Forest in Belgium and Luxembourg. This region was lightly defended by the Allies, who assumed that the difficult terrain and poor weather would make a large-scale armoured offensive unlikely. Hitler intended to push through the Ardennes, cross the Meuse River and capture the key port of Antwerp. In doing so, he hoped to split the British and

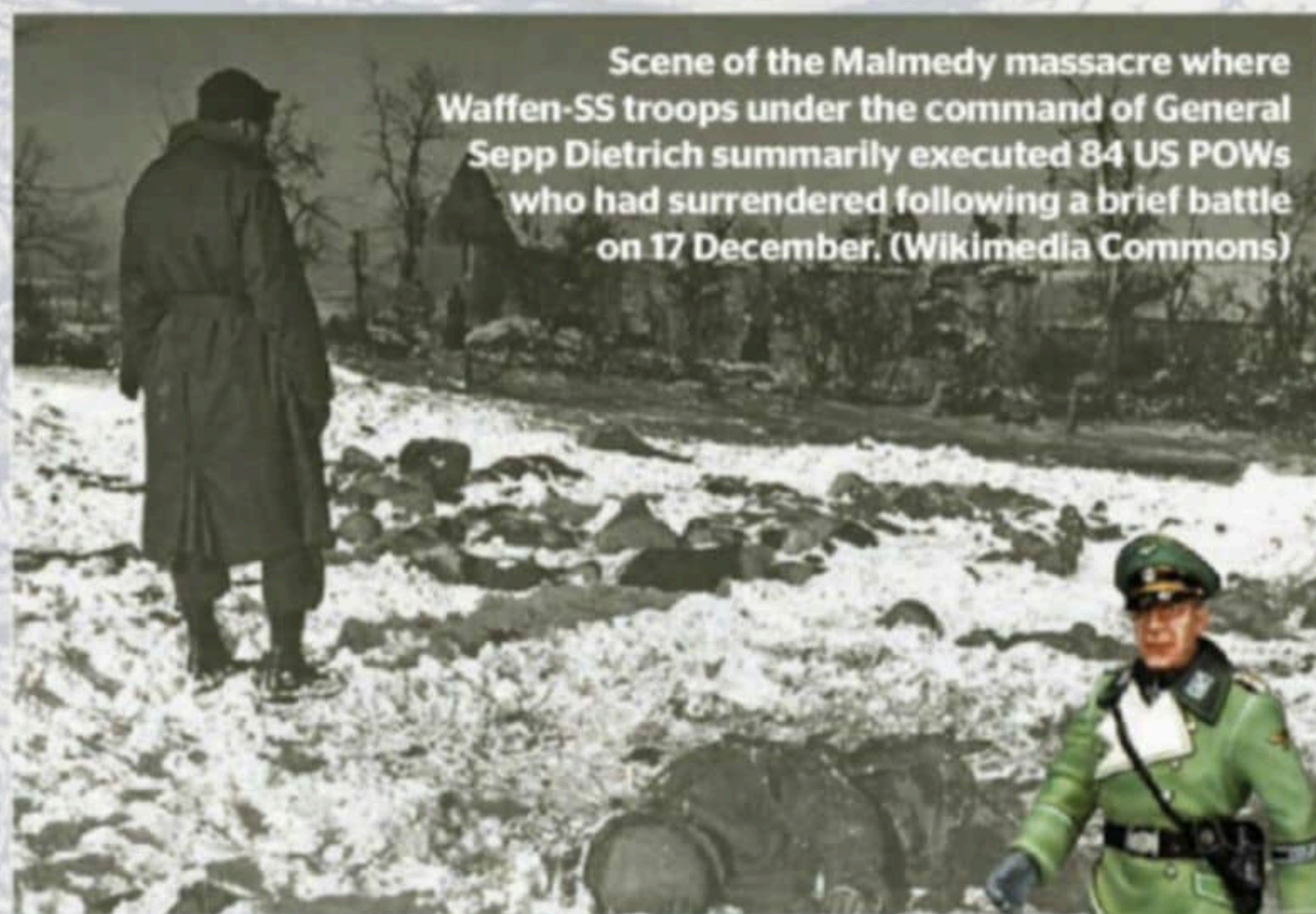


**W. Britain Model Figures has commemorated the Battle of the Bulge by marching out three GIs that form the brand new 'Welcome to Bastogne' set.**

American forces, disrupt Allied supply lines and encircle large numbers of troops.

The plan was audacious but fraught with risks. The German forces were depleted lacking fuel, manpower and equipment after years of intense fighting. Moreover, the Luftwaffe had been decimated and Germany was increasingly vulnerable to Allied air superiority. Nonetheless, Hitler ordered a concentration of almost 500,000 men, 1,400 tanks and 1,900 artillery pieces to launch the offensive.





Scene of the Malmedy massacre where Waffen-SS troops under the command of General Sepp Dietrich summarily executed 84 US POWs who had surrendered following a brief battle on 17 December. (Wikimedia Commons)



German troops advance past equipment abandoned by US forces. (Wikimedia Commons).

## The Opposing Forces

The Germans carefully amassed their units for the offensive, largely under cover of night, to avoid detection. The primary forces involved were three armies under the command of Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt and General Hasso von Manteuffel. They included the 6th SS Panzer Army, led by Sepp Dietrich and tasked with the northern thrust; the 5th Panzer Army, under Hasso von Manteuffel, who would strike toward

K&C figure of notorious SS officer General Sepp Dietrich.



Waffen SS German Panzer III L tank in winter camouflage by First Legion.

Bastogne and the central Ardennes; and the 7th Army, commanded by Erich Brandenberger and covering the southern flank. The 6th Panzer Army, which included elite Waffen SS units, was expected to spearhead the drive toward Antwerp.



A German machine gunner advances through the Ardennes. (Wikimedia Commons)

The Allies, meanwhile, were caught off-guard by the German offensive. The area was defended by a mix of American units, most of whom were either inexperienced or understrength. Among the key Allied forces were the US 1st Army, under General Courtney Hodges; and the US 3rd Army, commanded by the indomitable General George S. Patton Jr. At the start of the battle, many US divisions were spread thin holding a quiet sector that had been used for rest and recuperation after heavy fighting in France.

One of the most critical American units during the battle was the 101st Airborne Division under the command of General Anthony McAuliffe. It played a pivotal role in the defence of Bastogne. Other significant units included the US 2nd Armoured Division and 82nd Airborne Division.

It's a little-known fact that around 45,000 British soldiers were deployed during the course of the battle with many stationed to hold the line in defensive positions or as reserve reinforcements.

British troops from the 21st Army Group were asked to come and support their American allies. Tankers from the 7th Armoured Division – the 'Desert Rats', who were out on rest, suddenly found themselves travelling to the snowbound Ardennes where they took on German tanks. Paratroopers from 6th Airborne, who had fought on D-Day, were sent in as infantry. Men from the 53rd Welsh Division were among the British units that fought there.

While they did not bear the brunt of the German assault, the presence of British forces was instrumental in containing and eventually repelling the offensive.



American POWs under guard on 22 December 1944. (Wikimedia Commons)

## Clash of Steel

The Battle of the Bulge was characterised by its intense armoured warfare with both sides deploying a variety of tanks and armoured vehicles. The Germans, despite their overall resource shortages, fielded some of the most advanced and destructive tanks of the war.





**US M36 tank destroyers armed with 90mm guns move forward to stem the German spearhead near Werbomont, Belgium, on 20 December 1944. (Wikimedia Commons)**

In spite of the impression created by the popular 1965 movie *The Battle of the Bulge*, the Panzer VI or King Tiger was not the most widely deployed German tank in the battle. (Ironically, the King Tigers depicted in the movie were in fact US M47 Patton tanks sprayed field grey and bearing German markings.)

In reality, there were much larger numbers of Panzer IVs and Panthers. With its sloped armour and powerful 75mm



**W. Britain US Army figures of the 101st Airborne Division's 327th Glider Infantry Regiment, who became outnumbered by as many as fifteen-to-one at besieged Bastogne.**

gun, the Panther was arguably the best overall tank in the German arsenal. Additionally, the Germans deployed Jagdpanzer and Jagdpanther tank destroyers, both of which were highly effective in ambush roles due to their low profiles and heavy armament.

On the Allied side, the most numerous tank was the M4 Sherman. Though not as heavily

armoured or armed as the German Panther or Tiger tanks, the Sherman was reliable, relatively mechanically simple and available in large quantities. American forces also employed the M36 Jackson tank destroyer armed with a 90mm gun capable of taking on the heavier German armour.

Despite being outclassed in one-on-one tank engagements, the Sherman's numerical superiority and the effective use of combined arms – especially artillery and air support – helped the Allies level the playing field.

## The Offensive Begins

On the icy morning of 16 December, 1944, the Germans launched their surprise attack with a massive artillery barrage, followed by an infantry and armoured assault. Poor weather, including thick fog and heavy snowfall, grounded Allied aircraft, allowing the Germans to advance with minimal interference from the air.

**Whitewashed German Hetzer tank destroyer model by Thomas Gunn.**



The initial German assault overwhelmed several American units, particularly in the northern sector, where the 106th Infantry Division was encircled and forced to surrender. The Germans quickly exploited the gaps in the Allied lines, creating the 'Bulge' in the front from which the battle would take its name. German SS Panzer divisions made rapid progress, driving deep into the Ardennes and capturing thousands of American soldiers.

Located in the centre of the German advance, the town of Bastogne became a focal point. Situated at the crossroads of seven major roads, Bastogne was a key objective for both sides. The 101st Airborne Division, which had been rushed to the town, found itself surrounded by German forces. Despite being cut off and lacking adequate supplies, the Americans, under General McAuliffe, held firm. When the Germans demanded Bastogne's surrender on 22 December, McAuliffe famously replied with a single word: "Nuts!" His defiant refusal would become legendary.



**A British Sherman 'Firefly' tank guards the Meuse River crossing at Namur, Belgium, during December 1944. (Wikimedia Commons)**



## False Flag Operations

The battle also featured deception operations by the Germans – a tactic that hadn't been deployed at scale before in the war. In preparation for the offensive, Hitler authorized Operation Greif, led by the infamous Waffen-SS commando Otto Skorzeny. Skorzeny's troops, dressed in American uniforms and using captured US vehicles, infiltrated Allied lines to create confusion and sabotage key objectives.

These false flag operations were highly effective in the early days of the battle, causing panic and mistrust among Allied troops. US military police began questioning soldiers at checkpoints about trivia, such as American baseball players, to root out infiltrators.



**Figure of US General George S. Patton Jr. by W. Britain**

air superiority. Fighter-bombers, such as the US P-47 Thunderbolt, began wreaking havoc on German armour and supply lines.

With the German offensive running out of steam, the Allies launched a counteroffensive in early January 1945. During the next few weeks, they systematically pushed the Germans back, reducing the 'Bulge' and reclaiming lost ground.

By January 25, the battle was effectively over. The Germans had failed to achieve any of their strategic objectives and their losses were staggering totalling around 100,000 casualties, including irreplaceable men and equipment.

## Costly Victory

The Battle of the Bulge was a tactical victory for the Allies, but it came at a heavy cost. American casualties alone numbered more than 80,000, accounting for around ten per cent of all combat casualties suffered during the conflict.

Nevertheless, the engagement marked the final collapse of German military power on the Western Front.

The Third Reich had expended its last reserves of manpower and armour, leaving it vulnerable to the inevitable Allied advance into Germany. By the end of January 1945, the Allies were once again on the offensive, and within a few months, the war in Europe would be over.

*Editor's Note: Illustrations for this article include a sampling of 1/30-scale figures and vehicles by contemporary makers including First Legion Ltd., King & Country Ltd., Thomas Gunn Miniatures and W. Britain Model Figures.*

## Turning Point

By late December, the German advance had begun to stall. American forces had regrouped and reinforced the 'Bulge,' with Patton's 3rd Army executing a remarkable 90-degree turn to relieve Bastogne on 26 December.

As the weather cleared, the Allies regained



**After holding a woodland position all night near Wiltz, Luxembourg, against German counterattacks, three GIs of B Company, 101st Engineers, emerge for a rest. (Wikimedia Commons)**



**An American M8 armoured car on patrol from Patton's Third Army links up with GIs of the First Army's 84th Infantry Division west of Houffalize, Belgium, on 16 January 1945.**

## ABOUT THE WRITER

**TSC&HF Contributing Editor George Phillips** is an award-winning features writer and editor with 30 years' experience in publishing. An enthusiastic student of ancient Greek history, he has a deep interest in the Persian War, the Peloponnesian War and the campaigns of Alexander the Great. George's interest in military miniatures was reignited 25 years ago and he has been writing for this magazine for twenty years in an experience he describes as "fascinating and rewarding."



# BATTLE OF THE BULGE

The 80th anniversary of the beginning of World War II's momentous Battle of the Bulge will be marked on 16 December. As the Soviet Red Army steadily advanced on Nazi Germany from the east in 1944, dictator Adolf Hitler desperately gambled precious material resources and manpower by launching his last major offensive in Western Europe through the densely forested Ardennes region between Belgium and Luxembourg regarded as a relatively peaceful sector along the Allied line. Hitler hoped to catch the Western Allies off-guard, split their forces and compel them to negotiate a separate peace. German forces spearheaded by armour enjoyed the

element of surprise at the onset of the wintry battle but became roadblocked by tenacious American GIs until reinforcements poured in and the weather cleared enough to permit Allied airpower to assert its dominance. Nearly 20,000 Americans were killed during the frigid fighting but the Allies ultimately prevailed by the time the clash ended on 25 January 1945. In the past, King & Country Ltd. rolled out this 1/30-scale US Army M4 Sherman tank painted in winter white camouflage along with dynamic figures in varied realistic poses as a salute to the real GIs whose valour and ultimate sacrifices helped trigger the fall of the Third Reich.  
-Stuart A. Hessney





# THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY







# The Samurai & Swastika



**Colin Luxford** details how he converted figures to recreate Japanese history in miniature.

**Text and Photos: Colin Luxford**

In previous articles, I have detailed some conversions I have carried out using spare Del Prado samurai figures to make new characters not featured in its original partworks series. Mine were based on Osprey Publishing book illustrations as indeed so were many of the Del Prado figures. Since some of my conversions are *ashigaru* (foot soldiers) displaying swastika emblems, I thought I would use them as my theme here.

The swastika has been a religious symbol of good fortune for thousands of years. It was often displayed on the palms and soles on depictions of the Buddha. Of course, once the swastika was adopted by the Nazi Party in Germany, its meaning changed forever.

## Osprey Inspirations

Samurais used various symbols for their *mon* (heraldic emblem). The swastika was chosen by both the Hachisuka and Tsugaru families.

I took modelling inspiration from an Angus McBride illustration titled 'Tsugaru Nobuhira at Hirosaki Castle, 1610' that appeared in author Stephen Turnbull's 2012 book *Samurai Heraldry* (Elite 82) released by Osprey Publishing. The feudal lord is depicted marching "proudly through the snow to take possession of his newly built castle."

The Tsugaru family held power in the north of Japan. Incidentally, the impressive castle was struck by lightning and destroyed in 1627. It was rebuilt in 1810, albeit two storeys shorter.

## Infantry in Capes

The *ashigaru* are depicted in their normal uniforms in the Osprey artwork, but I wanted to clad my 1/30-scale figures in straw outer clothing because it's a snowy scene. Straw capes were a symbol of the despised peasant class who made up the bulk of the *ashigaru*, but nonetheless provided some



Artwork titled 'Tsugaru Nobuhira at Hirosaki Castle, 1610' inspired the wintry project. (Courtesy of Osprey Publishing)

protection. It is possible that for the prestigious event depicted, despite the conditions, straw capes might not have been allowed, so I apologise in advance for any faux pas. Another factor in having them 'caped' was that I had two spare 'Sengoku Musha' figures wearing straw capes, so it would have been difficult to eliminate the capes in any

conversions but they could be bulked up into coats.

A very eye-catching element of the colour plate is the *o uma jirushi* (a leader's great standard). This is a pole fixed to the back of a strong soldier. On the top is a *shakujo* (an ornate circular frame with rings hanging from the bottom to form a giant rattle).



A Del Prado samurai figure of 'li Naomasa 1560-1602' was enlisted for conversion into an *ashigaru* carrying the *o uma jirushi*.



Below this is a white 'dome' made from animal hair or some other material. There are four ropes fixed to the top of the pole needed to steady the whole thing with two held by the pole carrier and one each

by two assistants walking behind. The *shakujo* was originated by Buddhists on

pilgrimages to frighten away wild animals.

Another reference I used was the 2003 Osprey book *Kawanakajima 1553-64: Samurai Power Struggle* (Campaign 130) authored by Stephen Turnbull and illustrated by Wayne Reynolds. Instead of capes, a wintertime colour plate depicts *ashigaru*

wearing straw coats, straw leggings and straw snowshoes. The artwork also shows cloth protectors hanging down from the inside of their *jingasas* (lampshade style helmets worn only by ashigaru) and scarves around the lower parts of their faces.

As a result, I incorporated details from both paintings into my cameo.

## Reconfigurations

I used a spare Del Prado samurai figure of 'li Naomasa 1560-1602' for the carrier by removing his *yari* (spear), cutting off his helmet at the forehead level and removing other bits of his helmet and his arms. Then I drilled a thin hole in the small of his back to take the *o uma jirushi*.

Then I needed to make the *o uma jirushi* which was the most complicated part. I found a strong thin metal rod, bent one end so it could be inserted into a pre-drilled hole in the back of the 'carrier' and cut it to the desired length. For the ornate part, I used copper staples extracted from cardboard boxes and flattened. I made it in two halves that mirrored each other by bending them to the required shape. I made the hooks by winding wire

around a stick of the right circumference and then cutting along the coil. This left hooks that just needed to be fed onto the frame and straightened. To finish the look, I added

Milliput epoxy putty and bits. This

was then glued to the pole.

The finished standard was glued into the pre-drilled hole in the bearer's back.

For the two 'assistants,' I removed the

'Sengoku Musha' figures' *yaris*, cut off their helmets just above their foreheads and arms, and drilled small holes in their backs for their *sashimono*s (narrow flags worn on their backs) made with paperclips and wine bottle foil. The technique was identical for all three figures.

I first made their *jingasas* by using thin metal sheeting (the neck part from screw cap bottles carefully cut from the bottle). Once the metal was flattened, I used a compass to draw a circle to the radius required (I had made a paper template first to get the size correct). It was important that the compass point made a hole through the metal. Then I could cut around the circumference from any point cut a very straight line to the central hole.

Next, I overlapped the two edges by gently pushing them until they created the right cone shape. Then I cut another line along the overlap so the excess was removed. The two edges butted against each other and needed to be strengthened by using a small tab of the same material. It was glued on the inside to cover both edges.

After things dried, I could smooth any joint that showed by sanding. A small amount of Milliput was pushed into the inside of the *jingasa* and then turned over and pushed onto the space where the helmet was removed. After it hardened, I made the neck and face protectors by cutting them from bits of soft wine bottle foil.

The arms were repositioned to accommodate the ropes, having drilled out where necessary, holes through clenched fists. Each figure could be adjusted so that, for example, the assistants' arms nearest to the poles are the higher ones.



Two of Del Prado's of 'Sengoku Musha' figures were transformed into assistants to help steady the lord's *o uma jirushi*.





Tsugaru Nobuhira's *o uma jirushi*.



A Del Prado figure called 'Kanabou Musha' was the foundation for a conversion depicting a *kai yaku* blowing a *horogai*.

## ABOUT THE WRITER

**Colin Luxford** is a second-generation toy soldier collector; his father having started the collection about a century ago. The bulk of Colin's figures are of the Victorian period, particularly Raj India although nearly every part of the world and era are represented. He particularly enjoys creating models and dioramas from scrap materials. Colin was a college vice principal prior to retirement.

Next lots of Milliput was required to create all the straw clothing. It needed to be layered thinly onto the figures and textured by pulling a pin point along it many times until the finished look was achieved. This included adding in any cords used to hold the straw in place.

## Trumpeter Too

My other figure is a *kai yaku* (trumpeter) blowing a *horogai* or *jinkai*, a type of war trumpet made from a conch shell that could produce several different notes when fitted with a mouthpiece and cords for carrying. This was the main portable signalling device together with drums, gongs and bells used by Japanese armies. Their operators would be part of a general's entourage.

For this I used a Del Prado figure called 'Kanabou Musha' (literally a warrior with a metal stick). The same basic methods as above were used with this conversion with the *horogai* being made from wire and Milliput.

At this juncture, I'm still searching for an elusive ten models to complete my original series goal of 80, although I have added thirteen converted figures to it.



Back view of the *ashigaru* figures clad in straw.





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# Canada's Historic Fort Henry And Its Garrison in Miniature

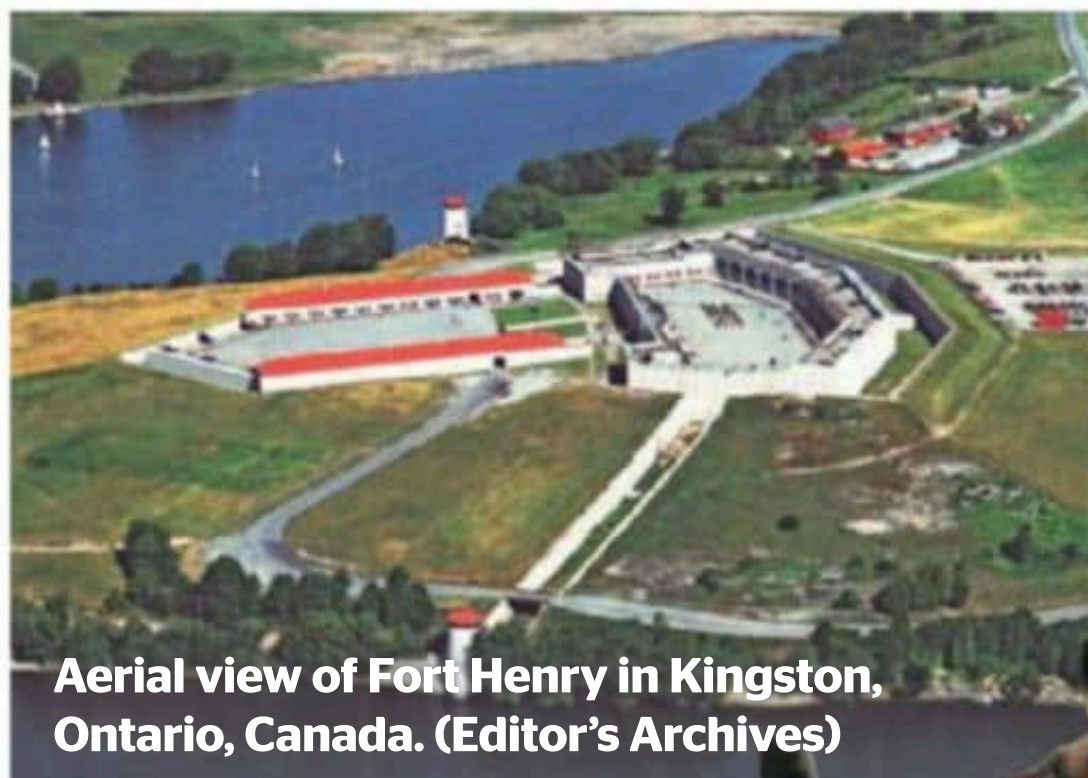
**Brendan Hogan** shares his longtime interest in his hometown landmark's history and collecting Fort Henry Guard toy soldiers.

Text: Brendan Hogan

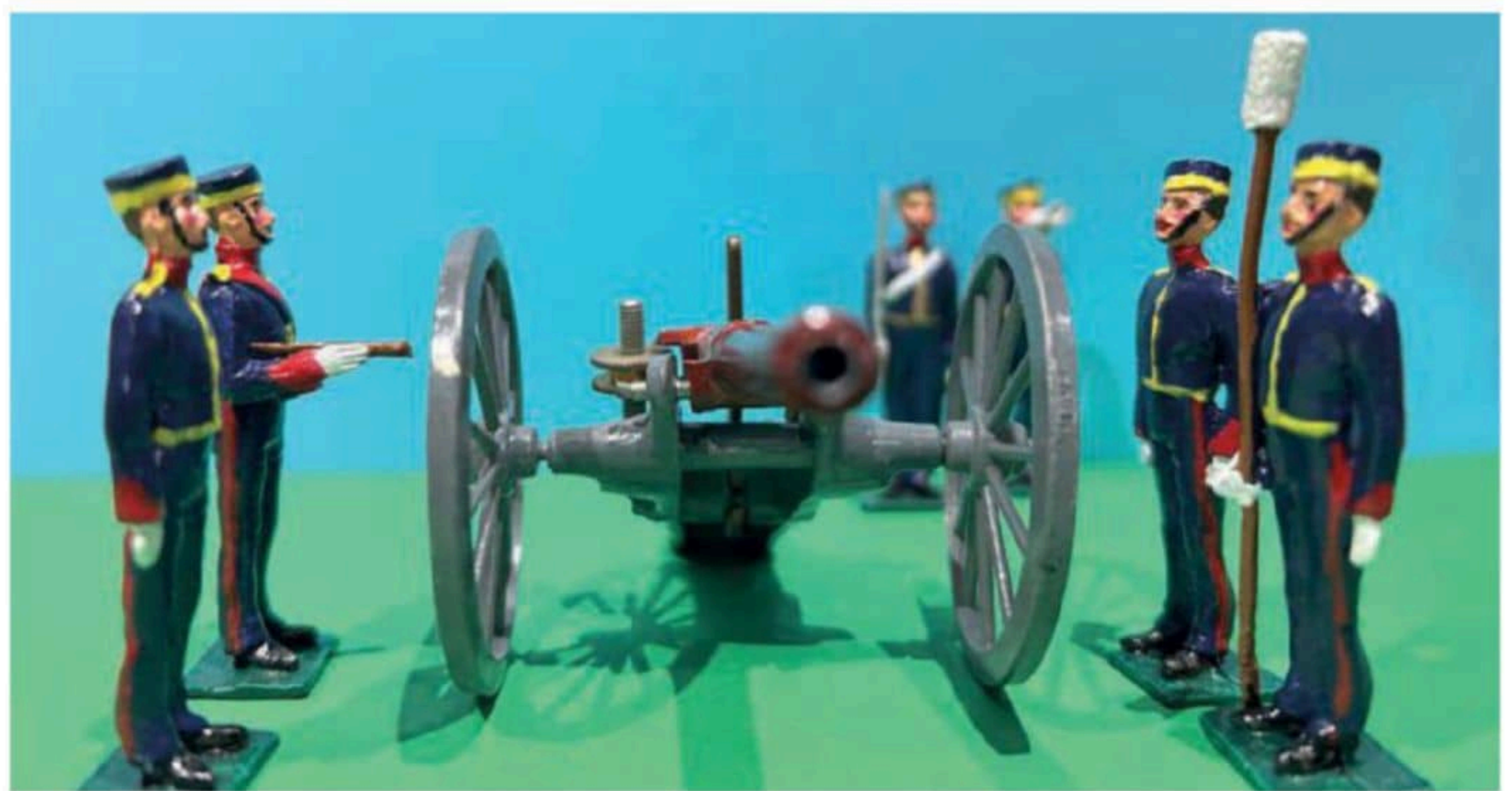
Photos: Brendan Hogan and Editor's Archives

**Editor's Note:** My friends and fellow Ontario Model Soldier Society members Brendan Hogan and Scott Paget are both well aware of my longtime fascination with figures inspired by Canada's historic Fort Henry thanks to this American's various writings in the past and YouTube videos about my collection. What follows are their own takes on our collective enthusiasm.

I was recently asked by fellow Ontario Model Soldier Society (OMSS) member Scott Paget about the origins of my interest in Old Fort Henry and collecting toy soldiers inspired by the Canadian landmark's world-famous Guard. This got me thinking. Growing up in Kingston, Ontario, I have had an enduring interest in its Fort Henry National Historical Site since as early as I can remember.



Aerial view of Fort Henry in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. (Editor's Archives)



A Good Soldiers 'Fort Henry Guards Artillery' set crews an old Britains field artillery piece as if performing during a Sunset Ceremony.

When I was a child, I was thrilled when my parents or grandparents would take me to visit the fort.

I was captivated by watching re-enactors forming the Fort Henry Guard (FHG) drill, fire ordnance and play the fifes and drums.

It was always a treat to visit the gift shop afterwards to pick out a souvenir. Sadly, none of the plastic soldiers or 'souvenir' metal soldiers bought at the fort survived my childhood battles, but they inspired my interest in the toy soldier hobby and were the precursors to my current collection.

## Old Fort Henry

The fort is strategically situated on a promontory at the northeastern end of Lake Ontario near the mouth of the

'Fort Henry Fife & Drum Set Circa 1970' (ref. POTN-0072) produced as part of the 'Pride of the Nation' range by Scott J. Dummitt Presents. A variant of this set depicts the fifers in white tunics as worn during the 1960s.





Cataraqui River where it flows into the St Lawrence River at the east end of Lake Ontario and the south end of the Rideau Canal which opened for commercial shipping in

**W. Britain 'Hollow-Cast Collection' Set 40193: 'Fort Henry Guard Mascot and Handler.'**

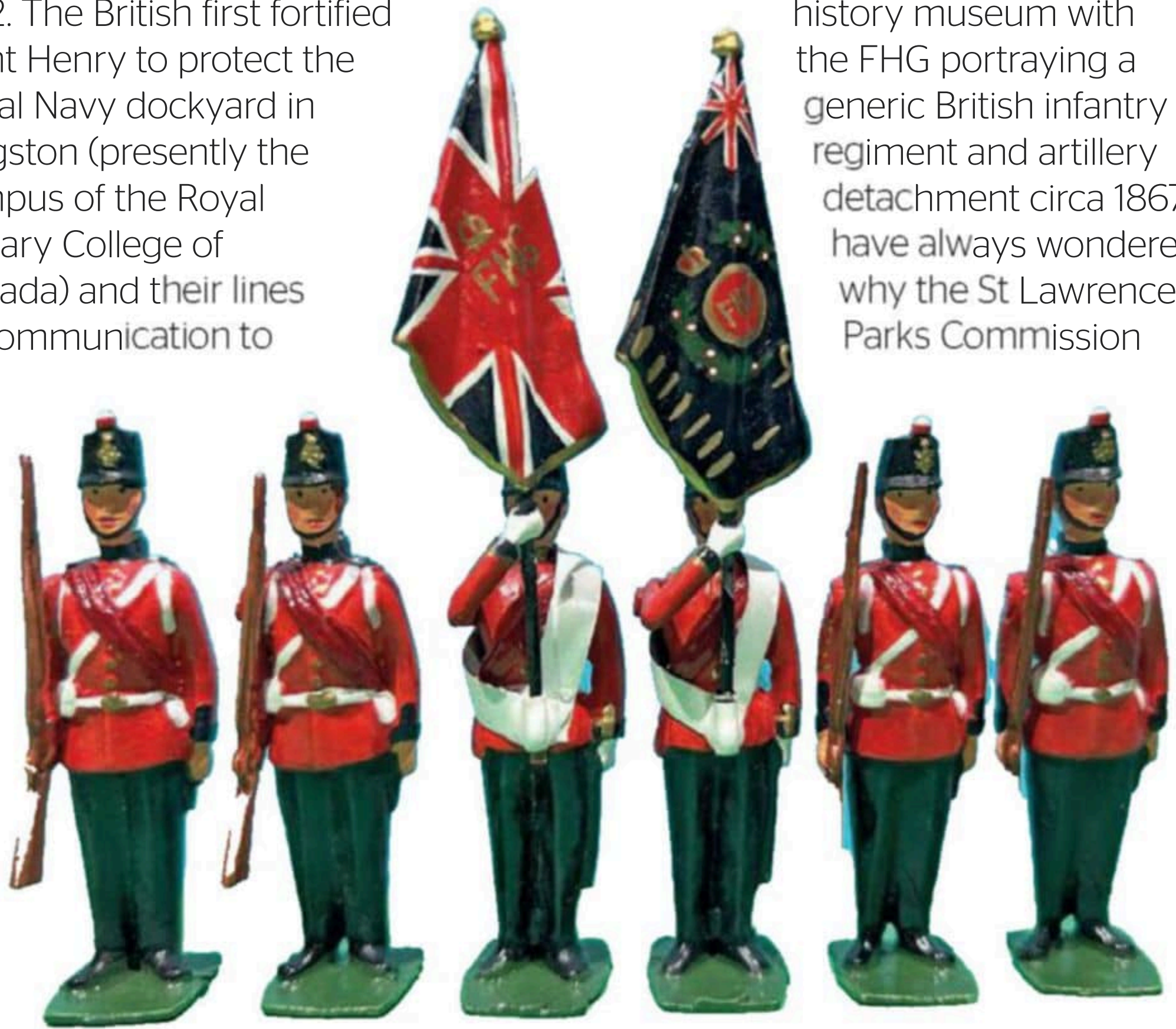


**A FHG colour party stands in an archway. (Editor's Archives)**



**Members of the FHG perform a bayonet drill. (Editor's Archives)**

1832. The British first fortified Point Henry to protect the Royal Navy dockyard in Kingston (presently the campus of the Royal Military College of Canada) and their lines of communication to



**FHG colour party by Amherst Miniatures.**

the interior of North America along the Great Lakes and the St Lawrence River during the War of 1812 fought against the United States.

During the 1830s, the British improved the fortifications on Point Henry by constructing the citadel that stands today. From my time as a cadet at the Royal Military College, I can attest to the strategic location of the fort having run up and down the steep hill it is situated on several times for physical training.

After undergoing restoration spearheaded by Ronald L. Way, the fort first opened in 1938 as a living

settled on the year 1867 for the re-enactors to portray and why they chose to not recreate a specific regiment. Perhaps it was to highlight the key political developments that occurred in 1867 with the emergence of the Dominion of Canada formed by the confederation of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario, and to avoid offending British regimental sensibilities.

While I still enjoy visiting the fort, including most recently during the summer of 2023, I can't help but notice the smaller size of the FHG and the inclusion of more non-military related events and vendors. Apparently, the coronavirus pandemic greatly affected recruiting re-enactors. Also, non-military events and vendors are a significant source of revenue for the fort.

The FHG still maintains its fife and drum corps, infantry squad and artillery



**Boxes of the old Britains Set 9155: 'Canada Fort Henry Guards, 1812 War, 49th Foot', Set 9160: 'Canada Fort Henry Guards, 1812 War, 89th Foot', and Set 9158: 'Canada Fort Henry Guards' are shown from the top down.**



**FHG bugler specially commissioned from Scott J. Dummitt Presents.**





**Garrison gunners perform a firing demonstration at Fort Henry. (Editor's Archives)**

detachment. There are also domestic interpreters to explain the less martial aspects of life at the fort to visitors. The Sunset Ceremony is staged during the

Christmas in 2006 at Scott's Kingston area store in Amherstview before he moved his shop to Bailieboro, Ontario. He is a fellow OMSS member and I have been buying

I have also collected old Britains figures made from 1957 to 1966 and sold at the fort, including a few examples of Set 9158: 'Canada Fort Henry Guards' both in the original cellophane-fronted box and unboxed (it was originally issued as Set 2148 in a red box with a 'Regiments of All Nations' label). My more recent examples from W. Britain's early 2000s 'Hollow-Cast Collection' include Set 40192: 'Fort Henry Guard Marching' and Set 40193: 'Fort Henry Guard Mascot and Handler.'

A prized set in my collection is a six-figure Royal Artillery detachment produced by UK-based Good Soldiers. While they would be equally appropriate manning a gun mounted on a garrison carriage, I paired them with an older Britains field artillery piece to stand in for



**Various old Britains FHG figures. Some have been retouched to repair excessive damage.**



**'Set 8823: Pioneer: Fort Henry Guard' from W. Britain's Centenary Collection.**

summer season, but it is performed less frequently than in previous years.

### **Prized Pieces**

My collection of 54mm FHG figures no doubt pales in comparison to others, yet they are amongst the most prized pieces in my collection. Currently, my collection comprises 104 figures, including three goat mascots, six gunners and a twenty-piece fife and drum corps. Several manufacturers are represented including Scott J. Dummitt Presents, W. Britain, Amherst Miniatures and Good Soldiers.

Most of my FHG figures were cast and painted by Scott J. Dummitt as part of his Canadian-themed 'Pride of the Nation' series. Painted in the traditional glossy toy soldier style, Scott painstakingly gets all the uniform details right.

My parents bought me my first thematic set titled 'Old Fort Henry Guardsmen Firing' (ref. POTN-0034) for

toy soldiers from him ever since.

I have steadily added to my FHG collection during the intervening years. I have picked up nearly all of Scott's single-figure poses and sets from both him directly and from other traders at toy soldier shows.

one of the Armstrong Rifled Breech Loading 6-Pounder guns used by the artillery detachment at the fort.

A couple of unique vintage Britains sets in my collection are related but not the FHG per se. I purchased examples of Set 9155: 'Canada Fort



**The view of the fort and Kingston from the East Battery. (Editor's Archives)**





**W. Britan 'Hollow-Cast Collection' Set 40192: 'Fort Henry Guard Marching.'**



**The Fort Henry Fife and Drum Corps performs a wheel. (Editor's Archives)**



**Five examples of the marching 'Fort Henry Guard Pioneer' (ref. POTN-0070) by Scott J. Dummitt Presents.**



**'Old Fort Henry Guardsmen Firing Set' (ref. POTN-0034) by Scott J. Dummitt Presents.**

Henry Guards, 1812 War, 49th Foot' and Set 9160: 'Canada Fort Henry Guards, 1812 War, 89th Foot' from Ottawa dealer and fellow OMSS member Robert Thompson. Both sets are comprised of six infantrymen standing at ease wearing War of 1812 era uniforms. Curiously, neither of those British regiments ever garrisoned Fort Henry. Britain produced those sets in the 1960s exclusively for sale by Parks Canada at its Fort Henry and Fort Wellington gift shops.

## Nostalgic Charm

There is something charming and nostalgic about figures of the FHG. The uniforms are simple yet elegant and represent a bygone period when Britain was at the height of its power during the reign of Queen Victoria. For today's collectors interested in recruiting FHG figures, they'll need to look to smaller manufacturers and the secondary market. Sadly, the gift shop at Fort Henry is bereft of toy soldiers.

I recently placed an order with UK-

based Andrew Stevenson, proprietor of Replica Metal Soldiers & Models, for a 36-piece band, colour party and several sets of guardsmen. His figures are made to order and are painted in the traditional glossy style to pair well with old Britains figures.

Fort Henry has been a lifelong fascination of mine. I highly recommend that if any readers should ever find themselves in the Kingston area, they should make a point of visiting the fort and adding a few FHG figures to their collections to mark the occasion.



**FHG figures by Scott J. Dummitt Presents recreate a colour party with escorts.**

## ABOUT THE WRITER

**Major Brendan Hogan** has collected toy soldiers since childhood and belongs to the Ontario Model Soldier Society. He is particularly interested in toy soldiers based on the American War of Independence, War of 1812 and other Canadian military history topics. Brendan is a graduate of the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston, Ontario, and serves as an artillery officer in the Canadian Armed Forces. He currently lives in Petawawa, Ontario, with his patient and understanding wife Abigail.



# Beating the Drum for Collecting Fort Henry Guard Toy Soldiers

**Scott Paget** shares his musings on the Canadian historical landmark and recruiting related figures from various makers.

**Text:** Scott Paget    **Photos:** Scott Paget and Others

Fort Henry was garrisoned by active service British and Canadian military units during the course of its 212-year history. Probably to the great surprise of many visitors, the Fort Henry Guard (FHG) was never one of them.

formidable stone-and-brick pentagonal fortress began in 1832.

Between the War of 1812 and 1870, 26 different British infantry regiments, the Royal Engineers and the Royal Artillery garrisoned Fort Henry. When British

artillery units garrisoned Fort Henry until 1891 when it was no longer an active military post.

In fact, the FHG is not even a military unit. It is, in its own words, an exhibition and interpretive organization staffed by a 'highly disciplined group of university student recruits trained as British soldiers from 1867. You will also see people representing the civilian population of the fort as schoolteachers and soldiers' wives.'

The FHG's re-enactors became so proficient in their drill routine that they established a longstanding relationship with the US Marine Corps beginning with a performance at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia on 4 July 1955. The FHG also conducted a mock battle at the Royal Tournament in London during June 1956.

It is thought that the latter performance sparked Britains to issue Set 2148: 'Fort Henry Guards' beginning in 1957. It is made up of an officer, five enlisted men and a goat mascot. Britains went on to produce various other FHG sets but Set 2148 was the only one that appeared in the maker's sales catalogues, according to American expert Joe Wallis, author



**Bespoke FHG Band made by Replica Metal Soldiers & Models. (Photo by Andrew Stevenson)**

The original fort was built in 1813 during the course of the War of 1812. Construction of today's much more

troops were withdrawn from Canada in 1871 (except for the Halifax Citadel in Nova Scotia), Canadian military and



**The FHG drill squad performs. (Editor's Archives)**



**Fort Henry garrison gunners from Labelle's.**





An ornamental badge adorns a FHG shako.

of *Regiments of All Nations: Britains Limited Lead Soldiers 1946-66* and other books about the brand's history and output.

## Drawing Card

As a Canadian, I'm amused by the enduring popularity of the FHG. As an attraction, it equals or surpasses the historical/military re-enactors at Nova Scotia's Fortress of Louisbourg and Halifax Citadel, Toronto's Fort York or other similar places in Canada.

Perhaps it is the views from the Fort Henry National Historical Site overlooking the St Lawrence River and Kingston, Ontario, and its recreation of nineteenth-century life that helps draw so many visitors between May and September each year. Or perhaps the drawing card is the contrast between its grey stone fortifications, the flash of musketry and cannons, the splash of bright red uniforms and the sound of fifes and drums echoing off of those stone walls.

I think it's a little of all those factors. While much has been written and said about the FHG and the fort, like many things you have to experience it to appreciate it.

## FHG in Miniature

Considering it is a non-military and interpretive organization, the FHG has been blessed to have been reproduced in everything from 1/6th-scale action figures to painted metal toy soldiers in 54mm (1/32-scale) and other types.

As a collector, I've found that my Britains FHG troops made before the end of lead figures production in 1966 or afterwards blend in nicely with other makers' types. For example, I have seamlessly reinforced them with toy soldiers from Replica Metal Soldiers & Models, the Canadian 'Pride of the Nation'



FHG colour party by Blenheim Military Models.



The FHG rehearses before a performance.

range by the namesake of the Scott J. Dummitt Presents shop in Ontario, Good Soldiers, Marlborough Military Models, Blenheim Military Models, Labelle's, Spirit of the Empire, Queen Victoria's Own and Wolfe Toy Soldiers

So why do so many of us have them in our collections? Speaking for myself, the uniforms are universal for the time period. The FHG could pass for almost any mid-nineteenth-century British or Canadian line infantry unit.



The FHG's goat mascot David meets a US Marine Corps bulldog mascot in Kingston before a summertime Sunset Ceremony. (Editor's Archives)





**FHG figures by Spirit of the Empire.**



**Garrison gunners by Wolfe Toy Soldiers.**



**The FHG Fife and Drums spearhead a parade. (Editor's Archives)**



**Examples of FHG figures by Marlborough Military Models.**

The FHG has pioneers, a fife and drum component, and an artillery arm that could be either the British Royal Artillery or Royal Canadian Artillery. It's tidy in that respect because as a collector you can amass the infantry, band and artillery all under one banner. For makers and collectors alike, that is the trifecta of figures.

My FHG Fifes and Drums band is composed of figures from old Britains and Labelle's sets. Also, with the addition of a bespoke set by Andrew Stevenson of Replica, now I have a sixteen-piece full marching band. While this might upset purists, I think a FHG brass band is not extreme because many of the units that garrisoned the fort would likely have had a band to not only entertain the troops stationed there

but the townsfolk of Kingston and the surrounding area.

The other attraction about collecting the FHG has to be the benefit of an artillery presence. After all, Fort Henry's strength was in its fortifications that allowed placement of artillery of all kinds to defend the approaches to the fortress and its environs as well as command the flow of American traffic along the St Lawrence River.

Like other historical sites in North America, the fort is best enjoyed during the summer months when the FHG and other re-enactors can allow visitors to fully enjoy and learn about that period of Canadian history. As a collector of FHG figures, I can have a part of that history in my cabinet and admire it while looking out for more sets or single figures to add.

## ABOUT THE WRITER

**Canadian Scott Paget** is the creator of the YouTube channel Scott's Soldiers which presents aspects of his toy soldier collection and his hobby-related experiences. His Episode 22 ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOJi5l8xpGY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOJi5l8xpGY)) spotlights the Fort Henry Guard. Scott is a member of both the Ontario Model Soldier Society (OMSS) and the British Model Soldier Society (BMSS), an occasional guest on the OMSS YouTube channel and a contributor to the Canadian club's publications.

**Editor's Note:** Readers can plan a visit to the Kingston landmark by visiting its website at [www.forthenry.com](http://www.forthenry.com).



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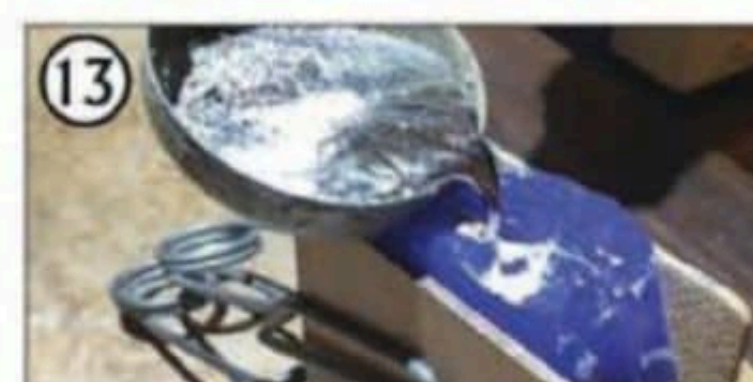
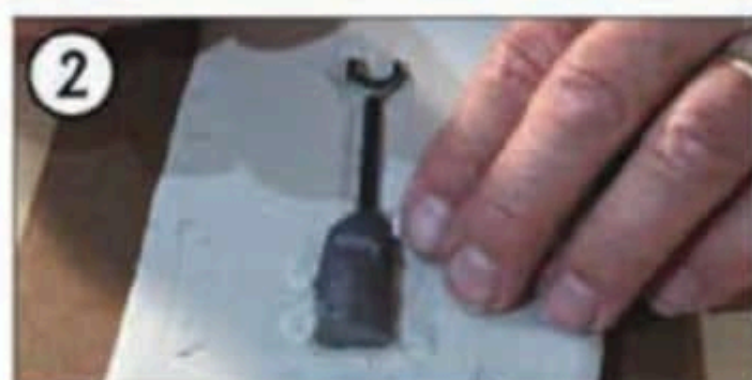
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# Toy Tank Companies

**Ray Bell** both collects and models tank formations to reinforce toy soldiers.

Text: Raymond E. Bell Jr.

Photos: Cynthia Bell-Bucha

The concept of collecting tanks for one's toy army is certainly not new but collecting groups or units of tanks, all of the same genre, probably is.

Toy tank companies consisting of from nine to eleven vehicles can be expensive to assemble. Nevertheless, at age five my interest in doing so was piqued by my father, then a US Army captain.



**TootsieToy metal World War II US Army M3 Lee medium tank.**

When my father returned home from his military duties in the evening, we would sit on the couch in our living room and he would take out a pencil and paper. With an engineer's penmanship, he would draw rows and

rows of line figures representing army tanks, trucks, guns and soldiers – literally companies and battalions of troops.

The next day I would cut out these 'formations' and arrange them in fighting order. From then on, it was just a matter of time before toy tank companies, battalions and groups became realities.

## First Tank Units

Grouping tanks into companies was not my first step toward creating tank units. At age ten it was only possible for me to organise two or three toy tanks per platoon. They were later incorporated into troops (company-size units) along with armoured cars or self-propelled guns.

The expense of collecting large tank units was a challenge but the availability of examples was also a



**An example of the Carden Loyd tankette rolled out by the Britains toy soldier company.**

consideration since toy tanks were a relatively new commodity in the United States during the World War II era.

A small-scale diecast US Army M3 Lee medium tank produced by TootsieToy was the most likely up-to-date model that could be found in stores around that time. Prior to World War II, a notional TootsieToy tank modelled after the World War I French and American Renault FT-17 light tank was available.

In Great Britain, the Dinky Toys Vickers Mark IV light tank and Mark II medium tank were on sale before World War II. They virtually disappeared from the market when the toy industry became involved in war materials production.

The same situation held true for the Britains 54mm model of a Mark VI open top armoured vehicle crewed by two figures titled 'A Model Tank (Carden Loyd Type) as Used by the Royal Tank Corps' (ref. 1203). Later it morphed into the ubiquitous British Army 'Bren Gun Carrier' (ref. 1876) crewed by three figures.

## Other Examples

The US government produced a wide variety of miniature metal vehicle identification models for use by the Army during World War II. The M3 Stuart light tank and M4 Sherman medium tank were well represented.



**World War II British Mark II medium tank by Dinky Toys.**





**Nine handmade wooden models form a 'T-35' medium tank company.**

They became available on the civilian market after the war along with halftracks, jeeps and armoured cars.

Paper toy soldiers and vehicles, including tanks, became popular on the civilian market during the war. For example, boxes of cereal often had military vehicles printed on them that could be cut out and assembled. Unfortunately, toy soldier items printed on such stiff paper proved to be lacking in durability with the passage of time.

## Formations Begin

Until the toy industry introduced new tanks and plastic model kits became a major source after World War II, the best way for me to form armoured units larger than platoons to conduct tactical exercises was a relatively primitive but resourceful in retrospect.



**Aurora plastic model kits were used to form a company of M46 Patton medium tanks operational during the Korean War.**

While I was a budding teenager living in London in 1950, I used scrap wood, a small saw, a knife, sandpaper and a file to produce a homemade Soviet

'T-35' tank. Over several months, I made eighteen of them and assigned them to my newly formed 2nd Tank Battalion. The real T-35 was a heavy tank but my models had a remote likeness to the Russian T-34 medium tanks being used by North Korean invaders to overrun South Korean and United Nations forces at the time.

Interestingly, my toy T-35 returned to South Korea in 1964 to serve as a training aid for the real-life US Army's A Company, 2nd Medium Tank Battalion, 15th Armored Division. Today, the eighteen tanks are divided equally into two companies of nine vehicles that make up my toy army's 1st Medium Tank Battalion, 15th Armored Regiment, along with a company of similar-size plastic toy M48 tanks.

## USMA Interlude

My return to the United States in 1952 marked the beginning of a new era in collecting and organising toy troop units. Until this point, mustering had been somewhat haphazard with tank units of different scales being grouped together. Now tank companies became integral components of battalions. A standard unit size of three tank companies per battalion was also established.

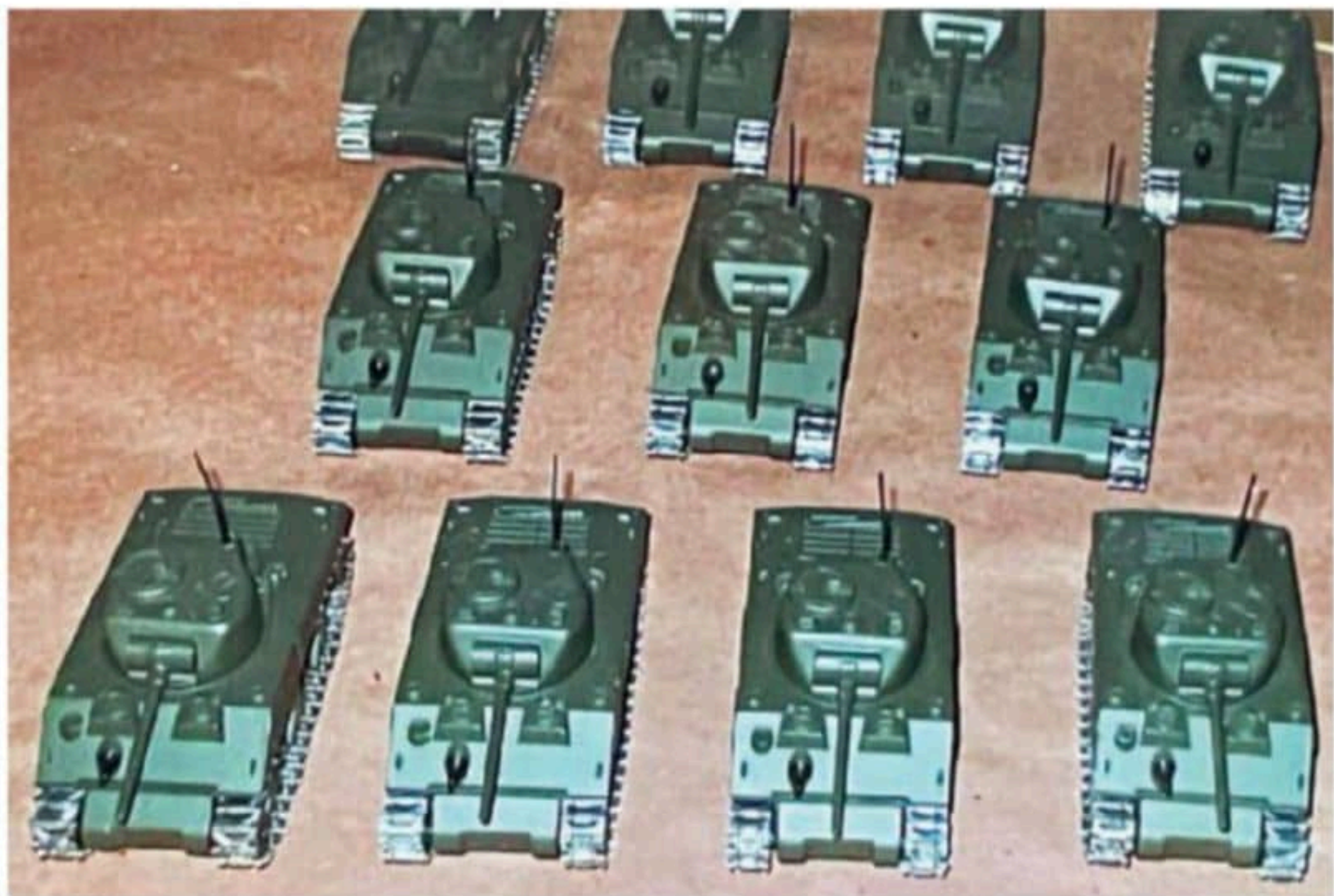
The year 1953 marked a temporary hiatus from toy tank collecting when its commanding general, yours truly, entered the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. My studies and training as a cadet precluded organising new tank units.

As my years at West Point passed,



**Models by Dinky Toys form a British Centurion tank company.**





**Solido models of M4 Sherman tanks in French service.**

however, the introduction of plastic tank model kits on the market made it possible to organise additional tank companies. Foremost among them was the 14th Tank Company consisting of M46 Patton medium tanks made by Aurora that were based on a type used by the US Army during the Korean War. They were originally designated as the 1st Motorized Infantry Group. Those tanks later became B Company of the 2nd Medium Tank Battalion, 18th Armored Regiment.

## Dinky Tanks

My next step in assembling company-sized tank units for tactical exercises was purchasing 1/43-scale armoured fighting vehicles by makers such as UK-based Dinky Toys, Solido of France and Bandai of Japan. At the time, unbranded plastic tanks in that same scale could be

found, such as a World War II German Tiger heavy tank in the same scale. My 1st Medium Tank Battalion, 17th Armored Regiment, was the first unit in that scale to be organised and it featured British models.

In 1954, Dinky

began producing a model of the British Centurion main battle tank deployed during the Korean War. It was a very accurate model that went well with similarly scaled World War II British infantry. By the beginning of the 21st Century, the 17th Armored Regiment of what I call my grandchildren's collection had six companies with three each in the regiment's 1st and 2nd Medium Tank Battalions. Cost-wise the price of each tank went from 75 cents US in 1954 to \$5 when the last ones were purchased in 1975.



**The 1st Medium Tank Battalion, 14th Armored Regiment, is composed of Patton M48A3 tanks assembled from Monogram kits.**



**US Army M1A1 Abrams tanks by Forces of Valor spearhead an advance in desert warfare.**

During a 1994 event at the Mémorial de Caen museum and memorial in Caen, Normandy, France, similar scale tanks by Solido were added to my army. They were diecast models of US-built M4 Sherman tanks with French markings. Free French armoured divisions that fought alongside Allied forces were equipped with M4 tanks during World War II.

## Scale Armour

Beginning in 1957, Britains produced a realistically detailed 54mm British 'Centurion Tank' available painted in either dark green (ref. 2150) or sand-coloured for desert warfare (ref. 2154).

Monogram's similar scale US M48A3 Patton tank, however, was much more affordable as a plastic kit. I first found several boxes of them in the post exchange during a 1962 visit to the US Wheelus Air Base along the coast of



Tripoli, Libya. Ten of the kits made a handsome load to be carried back to Germany, but they formed the basis for my A Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Armored Regiment.

The M48 really came into its own in 1974 when a large number of plastic kits became affordable, and I had enough spare time to build two additional companies to form a total of three companies into a battalion. Then in 2004 a similar scale Abrams M1A1 tank company was organised with Forces of Valor armoured fighting vehicles.

All the 54mm scale tank companies were part of the 14th Armored Regiment by 2004. In addition to three tank battalions, there were two independent companies organised from the collection of Kemble Widmer, a widely known Britains toy soldier collector. One is designated as C Company of the regiment, and it consists of six British World War I tanks. They include five custom-made Mark IV heavy tanks, one W. Britain Mark I 'Mother' Male tank (ref. 8946) released in 1998, and three Britains prewar Mark VI tankettes. The second unit is D Company and it consists of six Revell kit models of World War II US Sherman tanks and three prewar light tanks produced by Auburn Rubber company.

### Sparked by Father

My collecting and formation of toy tank companies has been a decades-long odyssey that might not appeal to



**World War I British heavy tank.**

all toy soldier collectors. Also, just one example of each type of tank pictured with this article would probably suffice for many collectors of armoured fighting vehicles.

In the end, however, what started out as my exercises in organising small battle armour units for mock battle exercises ballooned into a vast assemblage of major formations with 43 tank companies and 540 tanks. The major outcome of this endeavour has been gaining an appreciation for organising and caring for the large collection of military objects that exists in my and my grandchildren's possession.

My father, however, hardly expected his line drawings to influence the assemblage of such a mighty force of armoured fighting vehicles.

### ABOUT THE WRITER

**Retired US Army Brigadier General Raymond E. Bell Jr., PhD,** has been collecting toy soldiers, primarily Britains, since boyhood. He is a regular contributor to military history and toy soldier publications. The New York state resident is a 1957 graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point and taught German and Central European history there. Photographer **Cynthia Bell-Bucha** is his daughter.



**D Company, 14th Armored Regiment, includes a trio of Britains tankettes.**



# Talking Toy Soldiers with James Opie

## It's Showtime!

**James Opie** ruminates about his hobby show experiences through the years.

Text and Photos: James Opie



**Toy soldiers look good in battalions. These old Britains Indian infantry lookalikes set the scene for the sort of displays (not for sale) that used to be popular at BMSS annual shows. (Courtesy of C&T Auctioneers)**

In order to reminisce about shows and the pleasure I have had at them, I intend in this article to start with a short history of them, followed by how I have prepared for and enjoyed them. I have illustrated the text with figures that I have acquired from them and what one might expect to find at them nowadays, with likely prices, from my toy soldier collecting point of view.

### BMSS Events

The big parade is our expectation from what we do when we are showing our toy soldiers. Traditionally such

displays could be seen at the British Model Soldier Society (BMSS) annual shows as organised, for instance, by the Bands Special Interest Group, which I remember particularly when the club held its yearly show at the Connaught Rooms in Central London.

The BMSS (then called the British Society of Collectors of Model Soldiers) held its first exhibition in December 1935 at the Queen Victoria Memorial Soldiers Home, Woolwich, lasting for six days. The annual shows, held in conjunction with the annual dinners, started on 9 October 1936. The 1937

show featured the Britains trophy, the entries for which could include Britains figures 'altered or added to', thus officially encouraging conversions.

During World War II, the Britains Trophy was competed for at the Annual General Meeting. The dinners resumed in 1946. Other exhibitions were also organised, one of which, the Soldiers of the Queen display in Park Lane, I remember enjoying very much in 1953, even though in the Society minutes it was marked down as a flop.

The 1959 Annual Competitions were the first to be held on a Saturday in the



**Segal Nursery Rhyme series Dick Whittington with his cat (£40) and Little Bo Peep with her sheep (£50). A rare snail seems to have crept into this picture (£15). (Courtesy of C&T Auctioneers)**



**Looking through rummage boxes can often produce battered examples of figures you have never seen before. Ones in this condition might cost £1 each.**





**Prussian infantry by Bischoff (marching) and a French maker (charging) could be on offer at £12 each.**

Tudor Room of Caxton Hall, separately from the dinner, resulting in a doubling of the number of attendees. The 'Annuals' had achieved their modern form, and in its early years included an ever-increasing number of trade stands. For the next two decades they were the place to go for collectors to meet, converse and buy in a variety of larger venues.

Even today, with a reduced membership, these lively events continue, the next one being on 26 April 2025 at the Salvation Army Centre, Reading, when it will celebrate the 90th anniversary of the BMSS.

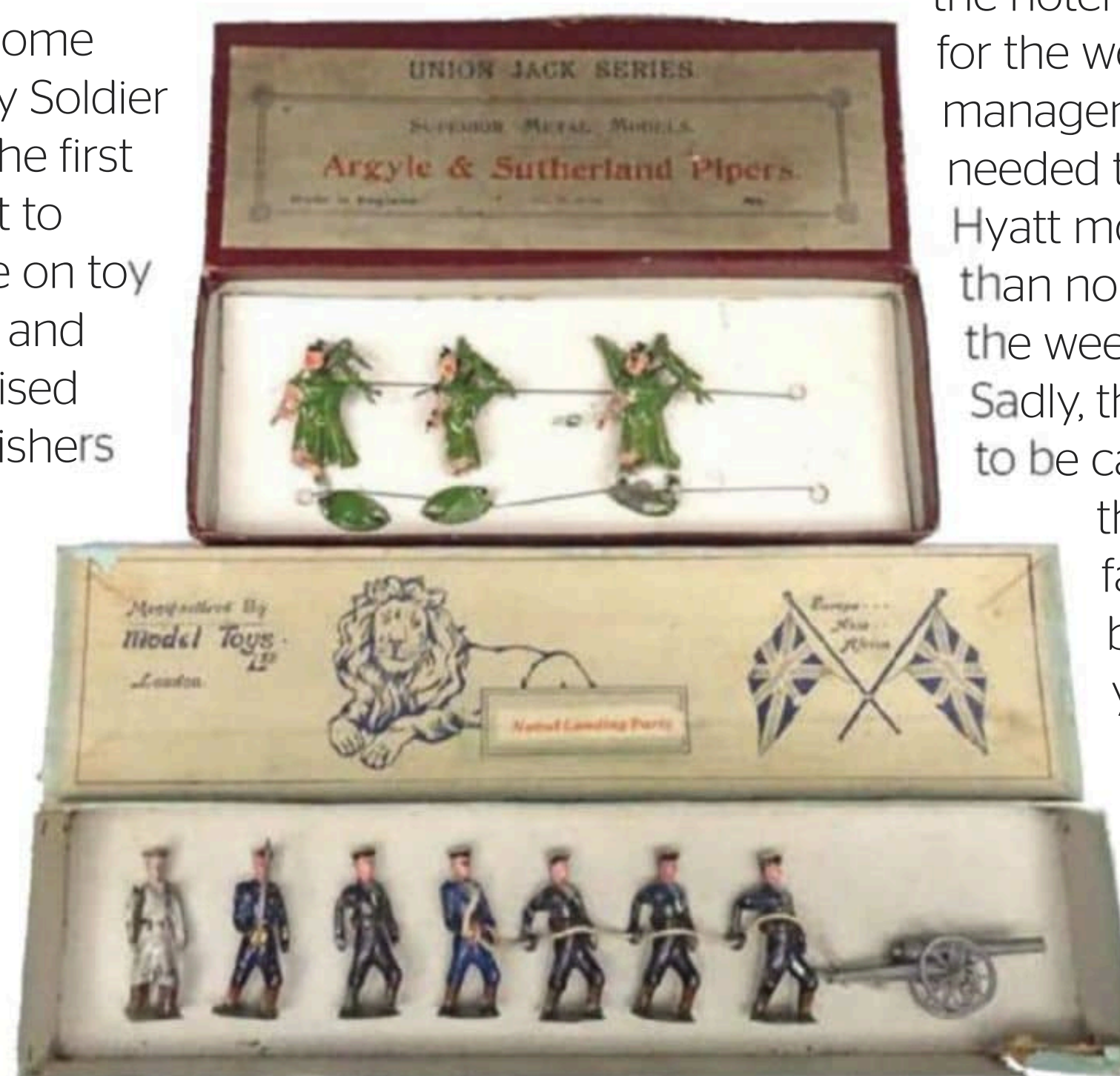
From 1970 to 1992, the BMSS was heavily involved in the Model Engineer Exhibition run by Model and Allied Publications, the publishers of *Military Modelling* magazine. That nine-day January event was for a number of years the second most popular occasion for military modellers and even toy soldier enthusiasts to visit. I went to it several times.

## Specialty Shows

I think I might have organised the first-ever toy soldier show outside of the BMSS. The Staines Military Swop Meet was launched on Saturday, 21 June 1975, in Staines-upon-Thames where I was living at the time. The late Shamus Wade, a prominent dealer and the maker of Nostalgia Models, was among the attendees. There were seventeen tables, all with a military flavour. They included some militaria, but no diecasts or other toys. Up until then, there had just been the many general toy swop meets where one might find the odd few toy soldier tables. Do please let me know if you remember an earlier such specialist show.

The awesome Chicago Toy Soldier Show was the first major event to concentrate on toy soldiers old and new. Organised by the publishers of the *Old Toy Soldier Newsletter*, the first Chicago show took place in 1980. I first attended it in 1982 followed by 1985, 1986, 1991 and 1994. I rounded off my US show attendance with my one and only visit to the West Coaster in Anaheim, California, in 2018.

The Chicago show went whole hog by providing the equivalent of a



**A rare half box from the Britannia Model Company (BMC) with three of the pipers broken and one missing (£20) and a naval landing party from The Model Toy Company c.1917 (£30).**

convention for toy soldier collectors. All the keenest people arrived at the Hyatt Regency hotel in Schaumburg, Illinois, near Chicago O'Hare International Airport as early as the Wednesday before the actual show and set up shop in their commodious rooms on three floors of the hotel for three days of room trading. I think I got more exercise from tramping round the traders' rooms than any other days of my life. Then, as the great finale, the actual show itself featured 350 tables in the grand ballroom for a concentrated blast of business (as in really busy) on the Sunday.

In 2022, the negotiations with the hotel took a turn for the worse as the management felt they needed to use the Hyatt more intensively than normal during the week of the show. Sadly, the show had to be cancelled by the Garfield family for 2023, bringing a 42-year run to a close.

Shortly afterwards a new show was organised for 2023 as a replacement under the auspices of Matthew

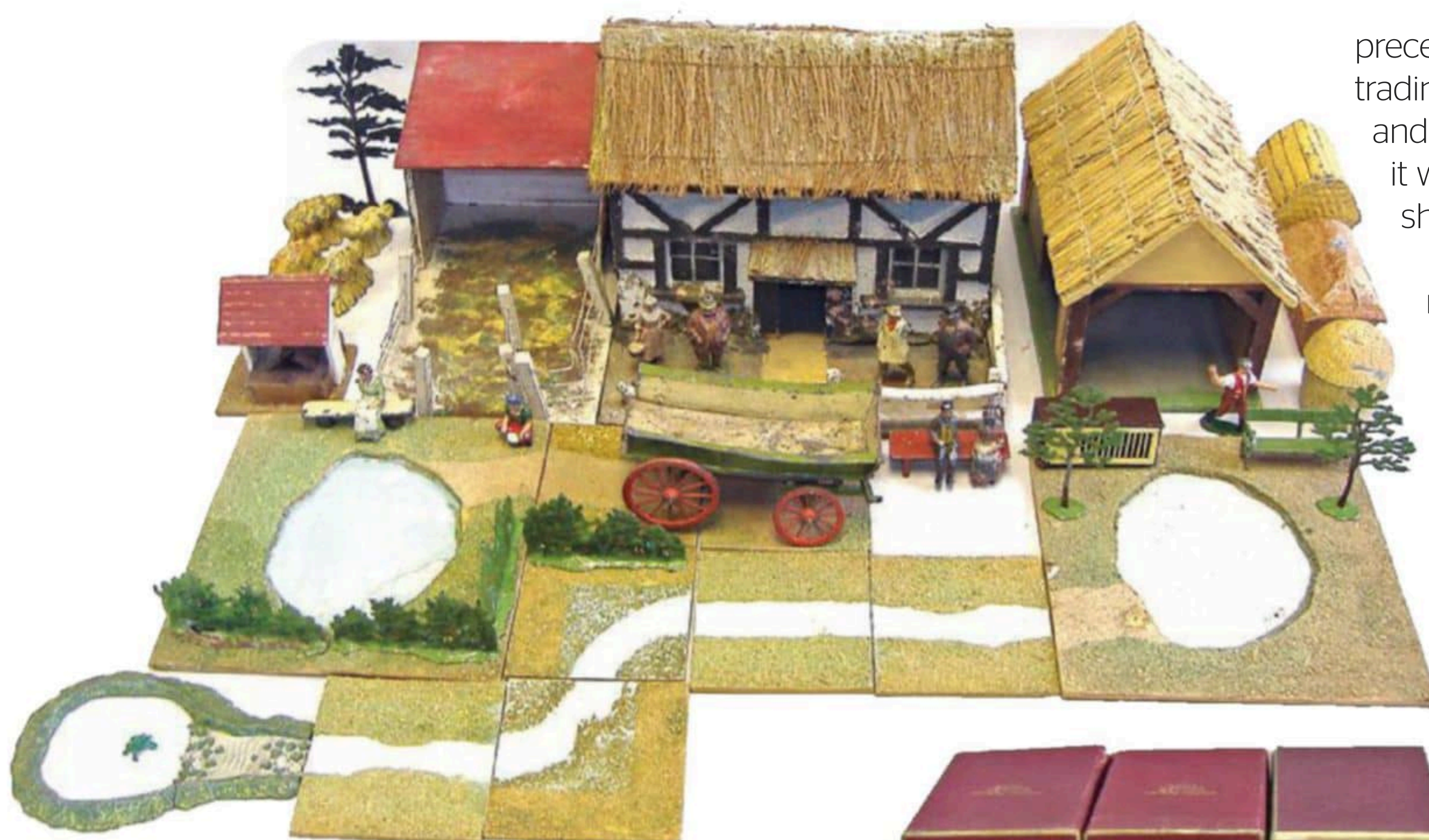
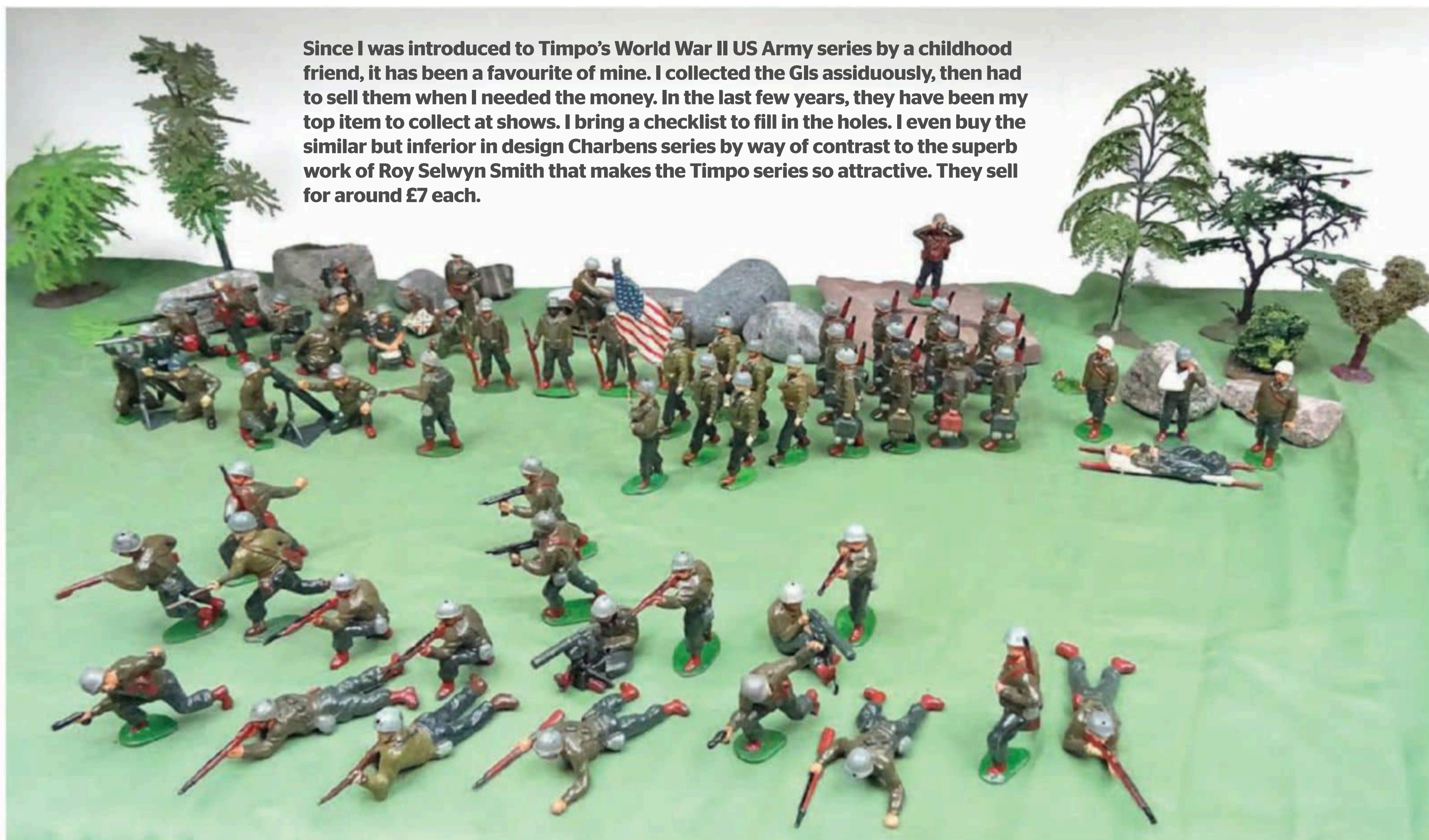
Murphy, owner of the Boston's Hobby Bunker shop. It was named the Chicagoland Toy Soldier Show, staged at the Chicago Marriott Schaumburg on Sunday, 24 September, and it was



**At the Sandown show this past September, I bought these six Heyde Bulgarian infantry with an officer for £80 from Harry Kemp. One of the rifles is broken, but I didn't have any Bulgarians in my collection. They go reasonably well with the running Britains small-size Russians in front of them with two rifles broken, which are of a slightly smaller size (£100).**



Since I was introduced to Timpo's World War II US Army series by a childhood friend, it has been a favourite of mine. I collected the GIs assiduously, then had to sell them when I needed the money. In the last few years, they have been my top item to collect at shows. I bring a checklist to fill in the holes. I even buy the similar but inferior in design Charbens series by way of contrast to the superb work of Roy Selwyn Smith that makes the Timpo series so attractive. They sell for around £7 each.



In the 1930s, there was a series of farm scenic items for sale marked with the brand name Elmwood. These turn up quite frequently in old farm collections at auction, but it is nice to be able to pick up individual pieces to complete a layout from a dealer at a show (£5 to £50). Not all of the items shown here are by Elmwood. (Courtesy of C&T Auctioneers)

preceded by the traditional room trading. This we all hope will continue, and by the time this article is published it will have had a successful 2024 show.

In 1986, the *Plastic Warrior* magazine team organised the first UK toy and model soldier show in Kentish Town, which I was very sorry to have missed. By the time of the second show held at Chelsea Town Hall the next year, it was already 50 tables strong. That is roughly how it has stayed since it settled down, first at the Queen Charlotte Hall in Richmond from 1991, and then from 2013 at the Winning Post in Whitton. Next year would have been the 40th



Figures from the Graham Farish Queen Elizabeth II Coronation series made by Russell Gammage are keenly collected (£30 per model, boxed). (Courtesy of C&T Auctioneers)





From the sublime to the ridiculous, stalls sometimes yield virtually unknown boxes such as these, possibly by Weaver Toys, a Dublin firm that made solid-cast figures. The orange box lid comes from Ulster, as it proclaims, but I haven't been able to identify a maker.

edition of this wonderful and intimate specialist show for plastic toy soldiers but for the coronavirus lockdowns that prevented the 2020 and 2021 events.

19:00 on Wednesday, 12 June, 1991, marked the debut of Norman Joplin's Old Toy Soldier and Figure Show in London (with encouragement from Chicago showrunner Don Pielin). It was held at the Royal National Hotel and its 90 trader tables ranked it as the biggest toy soldier event yet in the UK. Norman tells me that he couldn't get people to leave when the show was supposed to close at 22:00 and it wasn't until 02:00 the next day that he had managed to shoo them all out. The next year it became a full-day event with 150 tables. Soon it took up more space and peaked at 250 tables, as well as adding Christmas and spring dates, before Vectis Auctions bought Norman out in 1999.

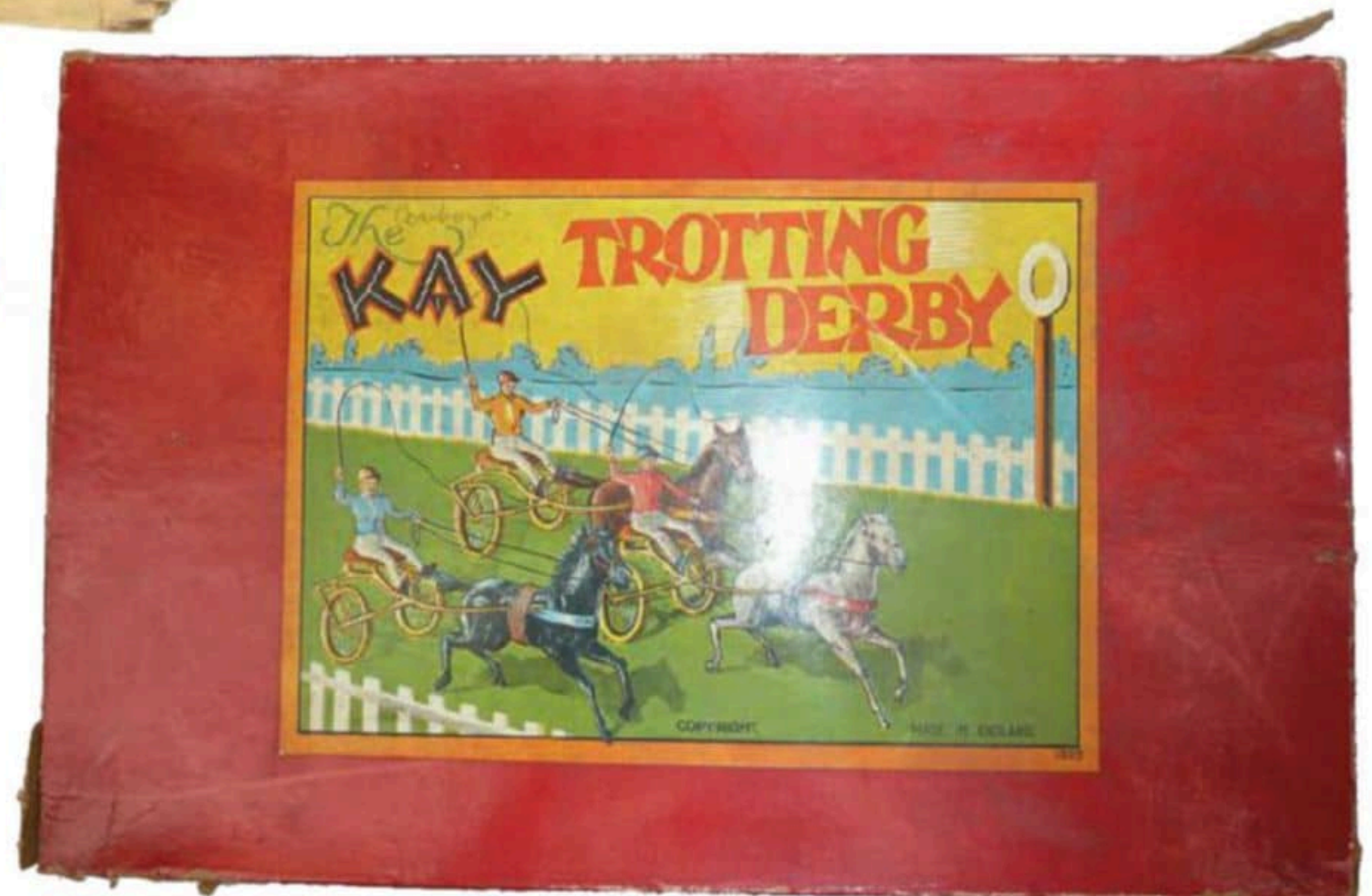
From 2005, Norman ran a smaller show specialising in old toy soldiers at the Holiday Inn in Coram Street near the Royal National Hotel, which was beginning in 2009 run by Adrian Little. It was an interesting effort to concentrate on the era when toy soldiers were made for children, and I remember having many good conversations there.

Norman remembers his show-running days with fondness, and gave me this as his show organising epitaph:

"My biggest joy was that my show got everyone together in one place, collectors and dealers. Many

friendships were formed that would not have been but for having everyone in the one place and on a regular basis. The overseas visitors were to be applauded for travelling, enjoying the show and the fun of London."

Today's London Toy Soldier & Historical Figures Show is run by Guideline Publications, the publisher of *TSC&HF* magazine. Through the years the event has migrated from the Royal National Hotel to its current venue at Haverstock School via the Business Design Centre in Islington, where in its earlier incarnation as the Royal Agricultural Hall the Royal Tournament was held from 1880. The next show is

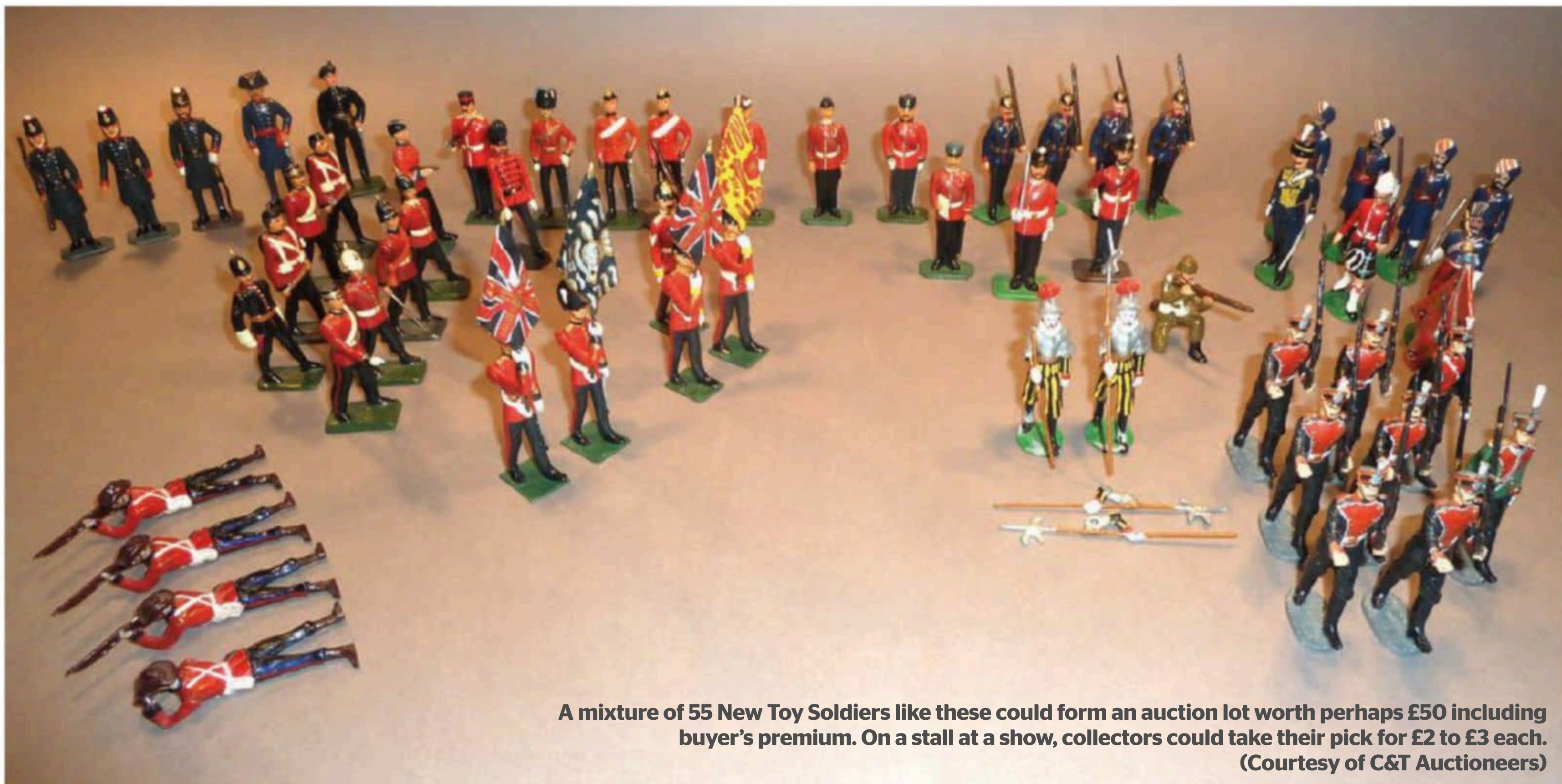


A rare Kay box lid that contained Taylor & Barrett trotters. Just the damaged box lid cost £20. Complete with its tray and trotters this set might realise £200 or more. (Courtesy of C&T Auctioneers)



I found this toy soldier-sized plastic Marx 'Doll House Family' set at Sandown (£10).





**A mixture of 55 New Toy Soldiers like these could form an auction lot worth perhaps £50 including buyer's premium. On a stall at a show, collectors could take their pick for £2 to £3 each. (Courtesy of C&T Auctioneers)**



**Figures found at last February's Sandown show include two small size French-made Arabs (£15 each), a Crescent bronze-bodied mortar and crew (£5 for all three), a Noris lying firing figure (£20) and four damaged Hanks marching infantry in original paint depicting contemporary US Army full dress in 1905, three damaged, the four for £40.**



**I acquired this magnificent conversion of a plastic Britains figure into an English Civil War officer at a Plastic Warrior Show in Richmond (£20).**

scheduled for Saturday, 7 December.

Specialised toy soldier trading shows outside London have met with mixed success. I am afraid I am guilty of being London-centric, although I have much enjoyed my few trips to Birmingham. The other place I have been a regular visitor is the Sandown Park Toy Collectors Fair, which has among its 500 tables a number of interest to toy soldier collectors.

## Showtime Tips

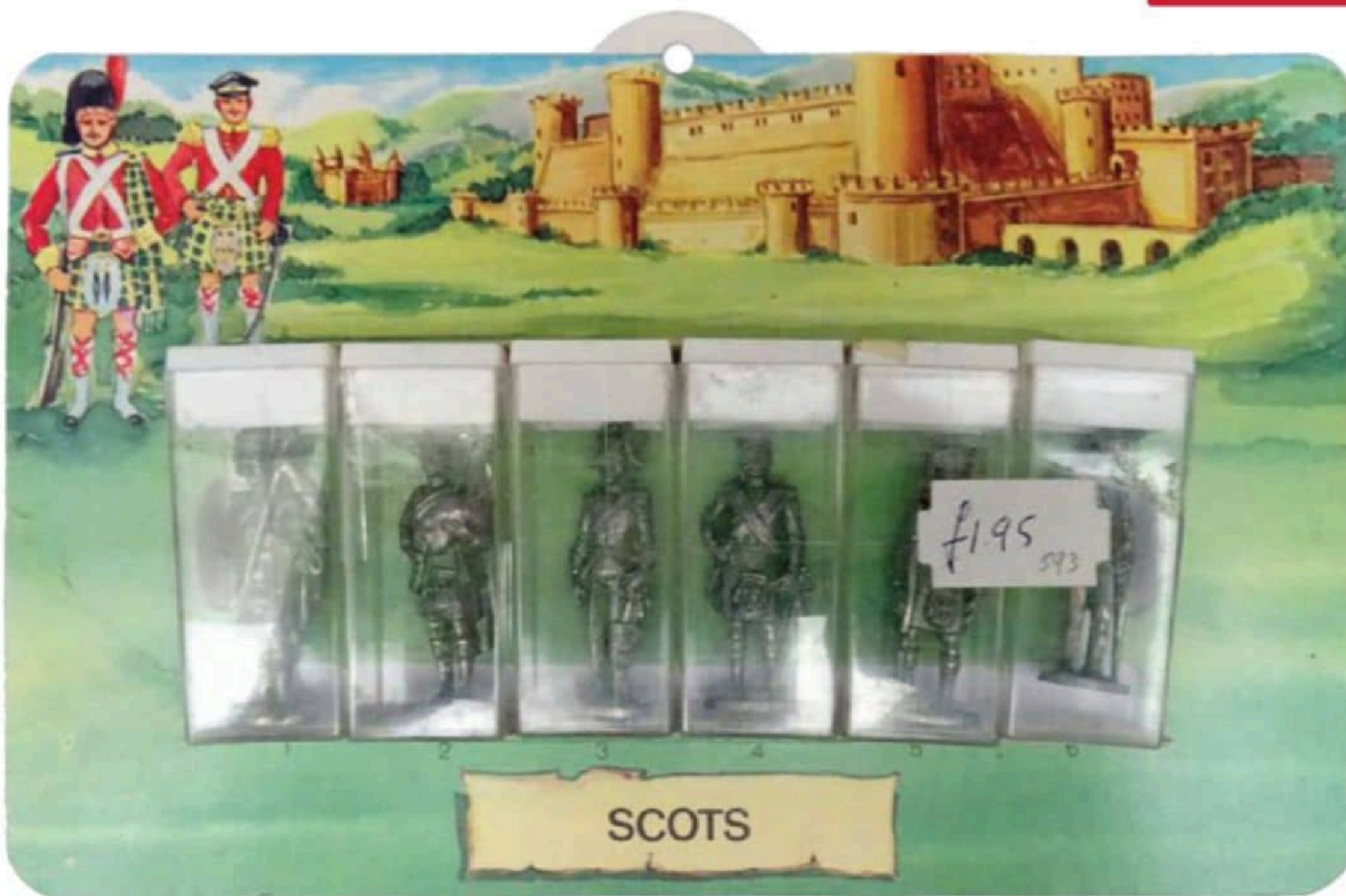
Take as much cash as you can afford, plus a cheque book, in case you find that unavoidable acquisition that you know, in the instant you see it, is your heart's desire.

The pictures accompanying this article mostly show some of the different things you might find, and the sort of prices that you might pay for them at a specialist toy soldier stall. One of the joys of going to a large mixed toy show such as Sandown is finding a toy dealer who is selling off unwanted toy soldiers at bargain prices. Some of them could be gems.

Make a list of your wants. Much of the fun is seeing whether you can find any of your heart's desires individually rather than having to buy an auction lot with too much in it. One of my recent projects has been to re-collect the entire Timpo hollow-cast GI series. The search for the few I am still missing adds much to my enjoyment.

Get there as early as possible. Sometimes there will be early bird entry fee, which costs a bit more. The best way to get there first is to book a table or





These 30mm Westart souvenir figures are better sculpted than might be implied from their rather garish card.

even a room if there is pre-show room trading. Then you can decide to play first pick as people unveil their goodies, after which you can bring out anything you want to dispose of. Listen or ask for any special clearances or fire sales because the organisers will probably know about them.

Or you can go in a leisurely way quite late and maybe get reduced entry. By that time, there may be lower prices with people more open to keen bargaining.

Remember to look to the sides of and under the tables. Ask the stallholder if he has any rummage boxes

## Haggle & Chat

There will be things at a show that are so obviously great bargains that they have to be snapped up at the offer price. But it is much more fun to do a deal. Everyone, buyers and sellers

alike, expects to need to give or get a discount. In some cases, you might know a trader fairly well and what the expectations of the deal should be.

The best thing I remember ever seeing at a show was the impossibly rare pre-first version of the Britains Germanic Horse Guard that had a movable set of reins and was shown to me by Andy Morant. It was not for sale!

Talking to people while making and renewing friendships is de rigueur at shows. For example, during the last Christmastime show at Haverstock School, I re-met Americans Ken and Ericka Osen of W. Britain Model Figures and was able to invite them and Canadian collector Scott Paget to tea at my home after the show as a result. The Osens asked me to do an article on the Queen Mary's Doll's House for *The Standard*, the exclusive journal of the W. Britain Collectors' Club.



I quite like oddments such as this recent large-scale Simba plastic Roman (£5).

## Yeoman Efforts

My everlasting thanks to all those who have made the effort over my entire collecting career to pack up and bring soldiers to a show. I know how much work it takes including the days spent sorting to find the most interesting pieces to bring, the wait for the venue to open, the carrying round endless corridors to dead ends, the search for your table when the site map has been re-arranged, the unpacking and arranging, the packing up again, the inevitable breakages and things that mysteriously go missing.

I know, I've been there, and I couldn't have had my lifelong fun without you. Please believe me, it was all worth it, so thanks again and I hope to see you next time. Stop by and say hello!



Chunky but satisfying Wend-Al aluminium British 12th (Prince of Wales's) Royal Lancers, a group which I sold for £50 at a show many years ago.

## ABOUT THE WRITER

**James Opie** has written several books about toy soldiers. He was the editor of the Military and Aviation Book Society for decades. He has also prepared toy soldier auction catalogues for 45 years, currently at C&T Auctioneers. James serves on the National Committee of the British Model Soldier Society (BMSS). He welcomes email correspondence on any toy soldier topics at [jamesopie@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jamesopie@yahoo.co.uk).



# FANTASTIC PLASTICS

**Kent Welch** reviews makers' latest and greatest plastic figures to be released into the hobby for collectors.



Kneeling and standing firing soldiers from the 'British Royal Americans 60th Regiment Set.'



Warhorse's French and Indian War releases include a 'Virginia Regiment Set 1755' that fields seven soldiers in varied poses.

## Warhorse Miniatures French and Indian War

Reviewed by Kent Welch

Figures inspired by North America's French and Indian War (1754-1763) exemplify how Mike Pendergast's passion for collecting toy soldiers led to him producing them.

He loves collecting new plastic toy soldiers. The problem for Mike was there were not enough being produced.

"I got tired of waiting for someone to make what I wanted," Mike said. Then one day he realised, "I can do this myself!"

The result of his frustration is Warhorse Miniatures.

It's very easy to get excited about Warhorse's figures which are about 54mm or 1/32-scale. Looking over the lineup it becomes obvious that Mike is both a dedicated history buff and toy soldier fan. The American produces his figures in resin using a 3D printer. His main areas of focus are the French and Indian War, the American Civil War and Old West, Norsemen, Saxons and Normans of the Middle Ages, and scenery pieces.

### Necessity Becomes The Mother of Invention

Mike is a longtime collector. Growing up he had soldiers from the classic makers, especially Marx sets and bags of Tim Mee Toys army men. Like many other people, when he got older, he came back to the hobby. Mike would

buy items by makers such as Conte Collectibles and Barzso Playsets online.

As I've mentioned, he wanted more figures, so Mike decided to make his own. His first attempt was to make original plastic figures like those of his youth. But he made slow progress on them, the entire production process was very involved and Mike became

Comparison between red British soldiers by Warhorse and tan equivalents made by Accurate in England.







**Examples of figures from Warhorse's 'Pennsylvania Regiment Set.'**



**The 'Virginia Regiment Set 1755' includes soldiers rushing into action.**

frustrated. Then he learned about using resin for 3D printing.

"Instead of two years trying to make plastic figures with foreign suppliers, I made my own," Mike recounted. "The first 3D printed one took just a month!"

For inspirations, the maker looks at historical pieces in museums, artwork and sketches. After doing his research, Mike sketches out the poses he wants to do for a set.

"I like to do the poses you just can't do in plastic," he noted.

Then Mike works with one of his 3D animators to produce a prototype figure. From there Mike might tweak the model a little, then it is ready for printing. The printing is not as simple as hitting a button.

Mike explained, "You have to have the heat and other things just right. I've learned a lot about the different resins. I'm really happy with what I have right now."

Warhorse figures are great because they work for different kinds of collectors. Because Mike uses resin, his figures can have incredible weapon and uniform details including thin muskets, tiny coat buttons and well-turned shoulder straps. As a result, they

work well with model-style figures.

But at the same time because of the way they are modelled and due to the resin Warhorse uses, they are still flexible and able to blend in nicely with more toylike figures from makers such as Toy Soldiers of San Diego, Accurate, Conte and Marx. Like all resin figures, however, if you drop them on a hard surface the thin parts will break.

I think that Warhorse does an excellent job of capturing the spirit of the time for each figure. Mike's Norsemen are savage and his American Indians are dynamic.

### **Resin Artwork**

Mike has learned about other aspects of the hobby as well.

"I learned how to do show stuff from others," he said. "I learned about what works and setting up a booth."

But Mike is not on his own because his girlfriend Carolyn helps a lot and does much of the shipping. His goal is to keep getting better at the process and to expand the line.

One example of how well Mike has adapted to making resin collectables is his 'Prone Canadian Militia' figure posed by a tree stump. It both tells a story and

demonstrates what is possible with this process and material. The figure was inspired by a picture a collector sent to Mike. He took that interesting image onboard and worked with his sculptors to create it.

This Canadian figure does things plastic just can't do. Although one piece, the militiaman does not look like he is attached to the stump. Also, the thinness and detail on the musket and ramrod are amazing.

And what a story the figure tells! The Canadian, perhaps far south of his home, hides behind the stump of a forest tree. Are hostile Woodland Indians closing in on him? He desperately reloads his musket as he scans the surrounding trees, his cap lying beside him so as not to give away his spot. What a fun piece!

### **Maker's Prices**

Warhorse figures come at good prices. For example, the 'Prone Canadian Militia' man is only \$7 US. The complete 'Virginia Regiment Set 1755' costs \$42 plus shipping domestically and internationally.

Mike himself said it best, "I'm not here to make money, I'm here to make

**Back view of Warhorse's evocative 'Prone Canadian Militia' model.**



**Artwork inspired the 'Prone Canadian Militia' resin piece.**





history!" If you need well-done Seven Years War figures, a Saxon shield wall or Confederate infantry, Warhorse is an excellent option.

### What's Next

Mike will soon have more time for Warhorse Miniatures and he has big plans for future releases including a Saxon blacksmith, US 7th Cavalry troopers, American Indian villages, Plains Indian tribes, Normans and World War II US paratroopers.

"I like to make things that I would want to buy," he said.

Mike also wants to release painted figures. Collectors should watch for many big things from Warhorse during the coming year.

One Virginian takes careful aim while his comrade braces for hand-to-hand combat with his bayonet and hatchet



Steadfast colonists from the Virginia Regiment are posed kneeling with their muskets.

Back view of a Virginian figure.

Mike's website reflects his great interest in wide-ranging aspects of the toy soldier hobby and how the lack of figures he dreamed of unleashed his creativity and has led to production of figures that all his fellow collectors can appreciate.

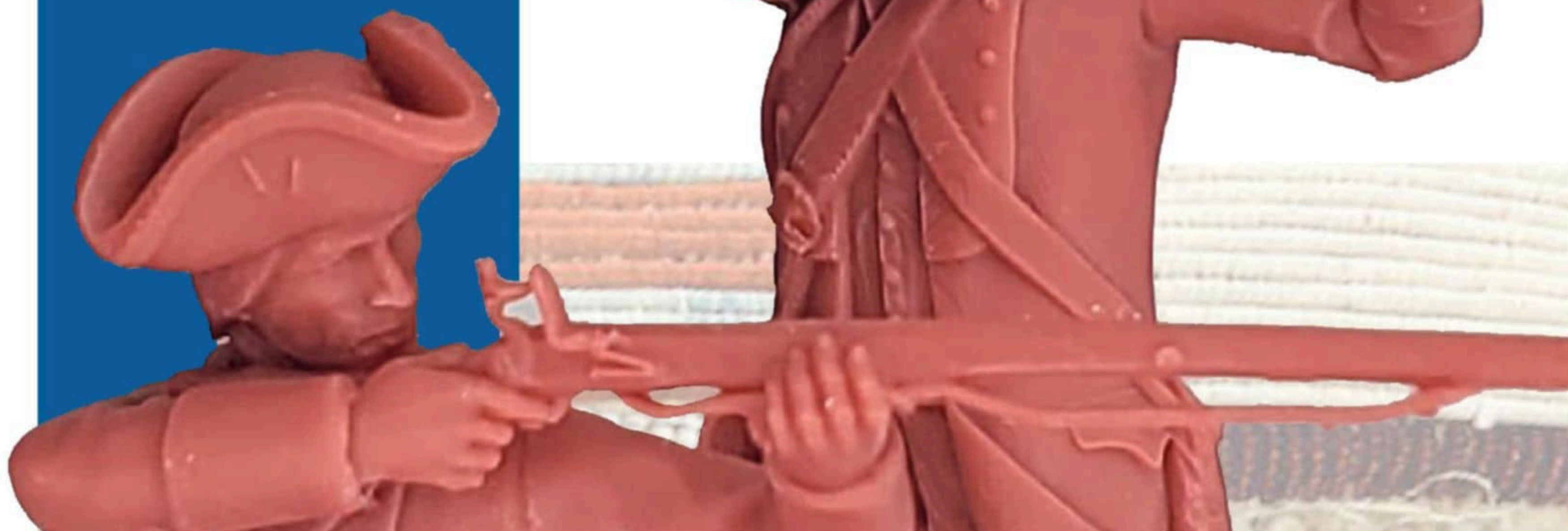
#### CONTACT

Warhorse Miniatures

Website: [www.warhorseminiatures.com](http://www.warhorseminiatures.com)

Email: [mike@warhorseminiatures.com](mailto:mike@warhorseminiatures.com)

Closeup look at Royal Americans marksmen.

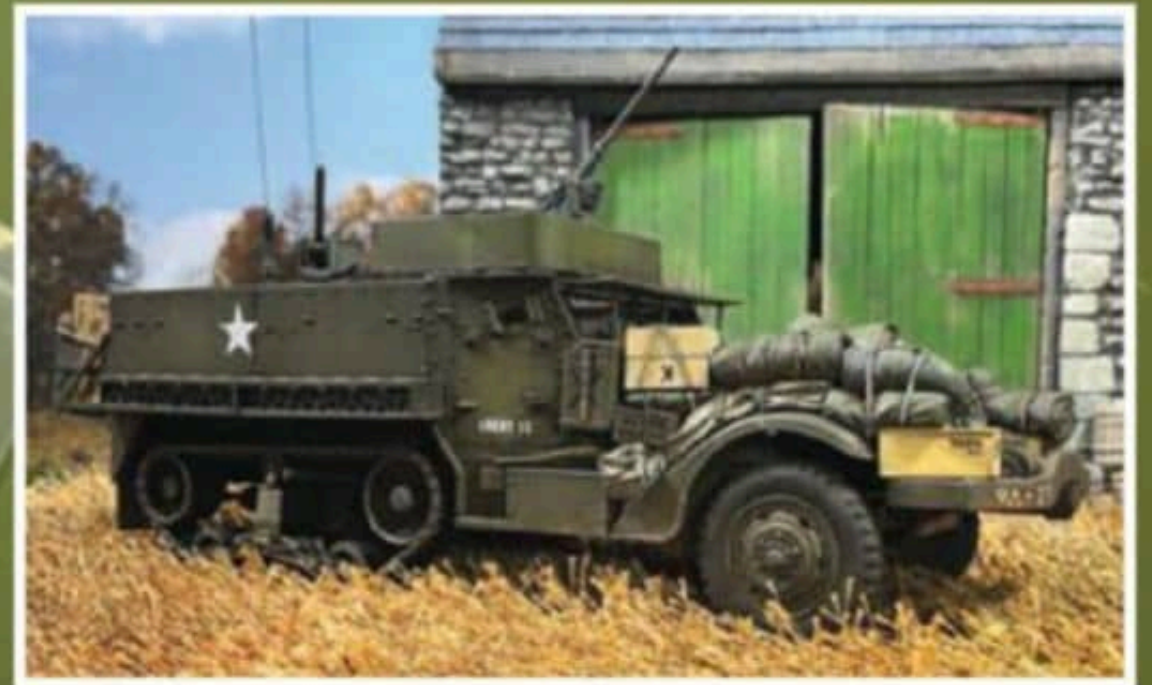




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# MODEL FIGURES

**David Grummitt** reviews new unpainted resin and plastic figures and kits.

## Alpine Miniatures World War II US Infantrymen

Reviewed by David Grummitt

Alpine Miniatures is a manufacturing and marketing company dedicated to providing military modellers around the world with the best quality resin figures in a variety of subjects. The company was launched in 2004 by figure sculptor Taesung Harms. The main office and workshop are located in New Jersey, USA.

Taesung is the principal sculptor and designer of all Alpine figures and artwork as well as its website. All the figures are cast and packaged in-house with the best available materials.

Alpine has recently released two new World War II figures in its line of 1/35-scale resin figures: 'US Infantry 2nd Infantry Division, BAR Gunner' (ref. 35321) and 'Infantry Soldier' (ref. 35322). The figures can be purchased separately or together in a set (ref. 35323). The box art's completed figures were painted by Dr Jin Kim. Each figure comes with two heads, as usual, one with a mesh cover and one without. The exquisite sculpting provides a

fantastic base for any painter. The intricate details of the clothing and equipment, along with the deep lines, create a canvas that invites the artist to bring the figure to life.

These resin castings require very little cleanup. The figures lend themselves for use in vignettes, dioramas or adding the 'human element' to armoured vehicles and soft-skinned vehicles.

Alpine figures can be found at [www.alpineminiatures.com](http://www.alpineminiatures.com) or from good model shops worldwide.

### CONTACT

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## MiniArt Various New Releases

Reviewed by David Grummitt

Ukrainian maker MiniArt makes some of the best 1/35-scale plastic figure kits on the market, and the manufacturer's recent World War II releases continue this fine tradition.

First, we have the very cold-looking 'German Soldiers Winter 1941-42 -- Special Edition' (ref. 35428). These figures really capture the desperate state of the Wehrmacht during that first winter in Russia. The inclusion of a sprue of German weapons and equipment will certainly add to the diorama and vignette possibilities. 'Panzer Grenadiers Set 2' (ref. 35484) contains four late-war German infantrymen. The poses are based around

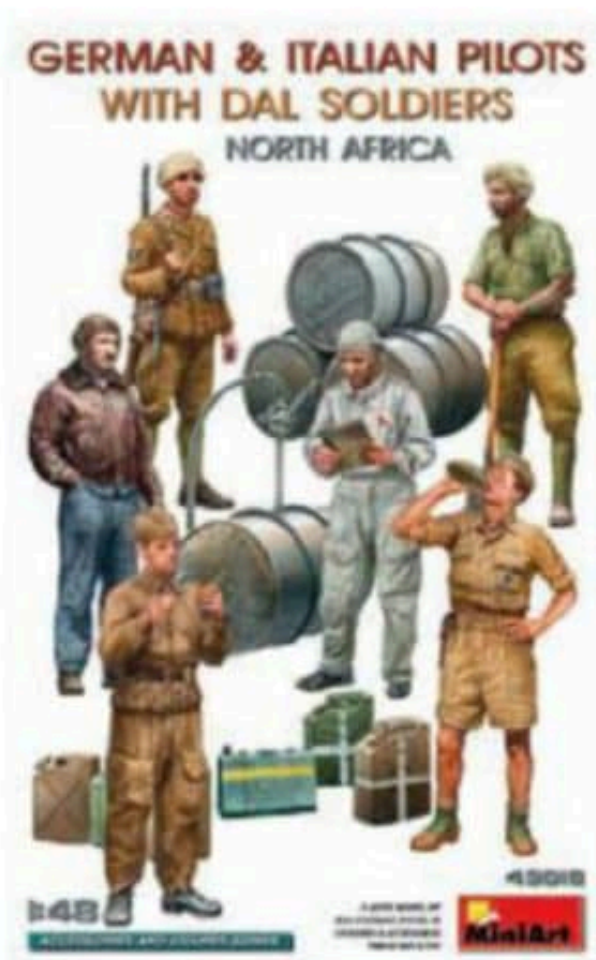
a series of very well-known photos of German soldiers atop a Panther tank on the Western Front in 1944. They are dressed in the M1944 field uniform, short boots and steel helmets. Two of them represent officers or NCOs armed with MP40s, while another soldier is armed with an MG42. The final figure represents a MG42 team member armed with a Mauser 98K rifle. As with all plastic figures, these will need some modelling skills and careful painting to get the best from them, but they are very welcome and the perfect complement to any late-war German tank.

We also have a first from MiniArt in the form of its inaugural 1/48-scale figure release: 'German & Italian Pilots with DAL Soldiers North Africa' (ref. 49018). The six figures represent German and Italian pilots alongside Free Arabian Legion soldiers suitable for a North African setting.

The kit comes with fuel drums, jerrycans and other equipment to enhance historical accuracy. The collection is perfect for creating dioramas posed alongside suitable 1/48-scale aircraft or as standalone figures. Our thanks to MiniArt for the product information. MiniArt kits are available from all good model shops.

### CONTACT

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## Jason Studio

### World War II and Vietnam War US Figures

Reviewed by David Grummitt

One of the most recent neat releases for military modellers was a 1/16-scale M113 from US-based Andy's Hobby Headquarters ([www.andyshhq.com](http://www.andyshhq.com)). Now Jason's Studio, a Chinese manufacturer, has a range of figures and accessories that will make what promises to be a great vehicle kit into something out of this world.

Most exciting for me is the 1/16-scale 'M113 Armored Personnel Carrier Crew & Infantrymen' set (ref. JS-16019). It includes Vietnam War US figures of a driver, commander and two

'Grunts' armed with M16 rifles. These figures are also available separately.

Jason Studio has also produced a lovely set of World War II figures to complement a 1/16-scale US M8 Greyhound Scout Car. This four-figure set includes a driver, commander, gunner and loader. The figures interact beautifully with the M8 but are superb figures in their own right and will grace any collection. Like the Vietnam figures, they are also available separately.



The entire range can be viewed on the Jason Studio Facebook page.

## SSR Models

### Cold War Swedish Soldiers

Reviewed by David Grummitt

There is no doubt that, compared to subjects from the two World Wars and older periods of military history, Cold War-era figures are relatively few and far between for both modellers and collectors. Swedish 3D designer and printer SSR Models has come to the rescue with an interesting and unusual collection of 1/35-scale figures

of Swedish soldiers from the 1960s and 70s perfect for placing alongside an Strv 101, 102 or an S-Tank.

They include full figures for tank commanders and loaders and two half-figure tank crewmen (refs. SW06-10), as well as a collection of infantrymen (ref. SW01-05, 11) either on patrol or gathered in conversation planning their next move.

**CONTACT**  
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They are well animated figures and, if the rest of the SSR Models catalogue is anything to judge by, will be lawlessly printed.

Highly recommended. SSR Models are available in the UK from Tyrell Models or check out their page on Facebook.





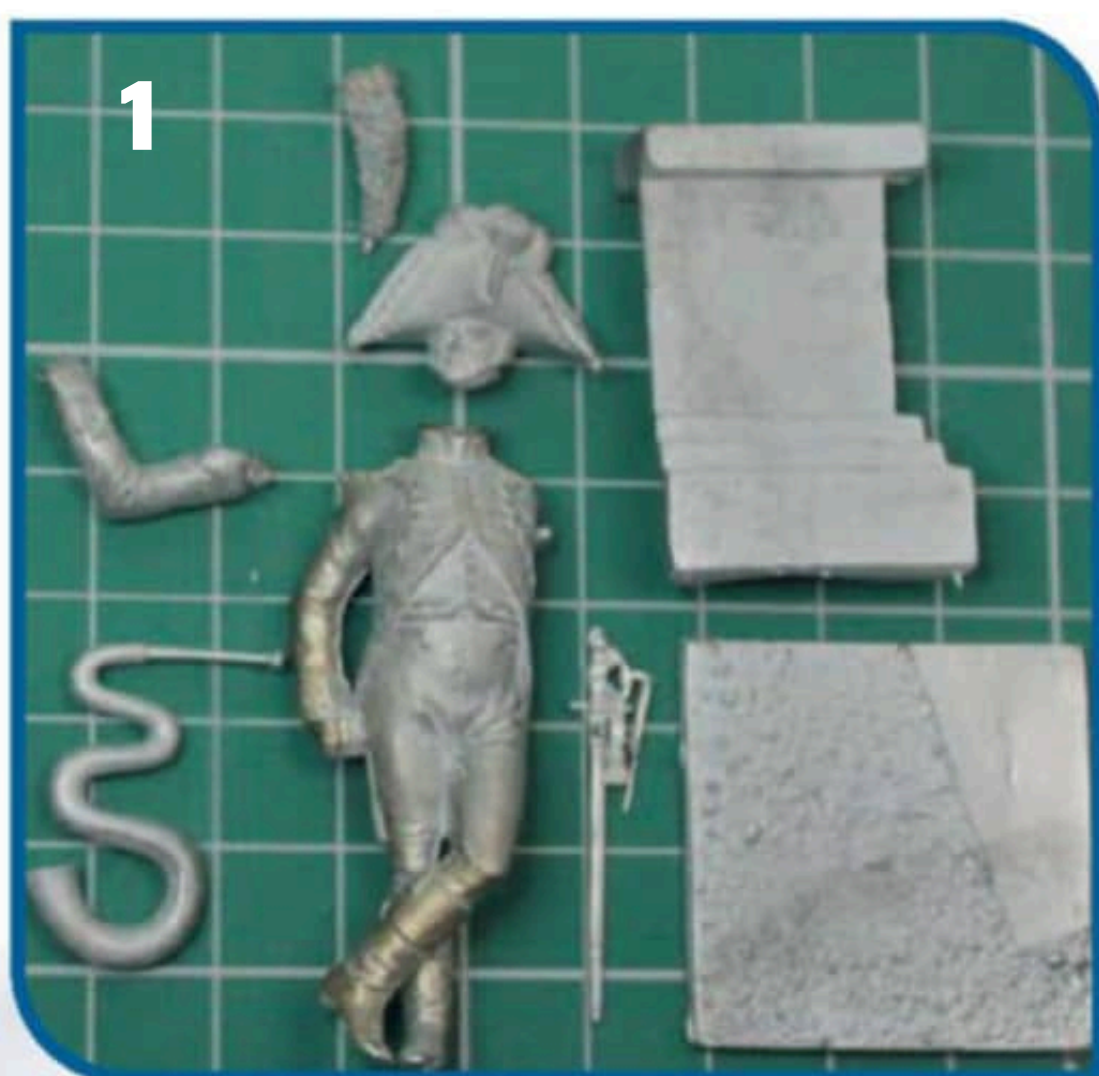


# Kit Korner:

## Model Figure Painter's Project

**Paul Newman** builds and paints a Napoleonic French musician.

Text and Photos: Paul Newman



**1** Eight parts compose the Napoleonic French serpent player.

I spotted this Métal Modeles kit depicting a musician of the Napoleonic French Grenadiers of the Guard at the Sevres show in Paris in 2022 and I had to have it because of the subject matter. His instrument is a serpent, a low-pitched instrument that dates to the Renaissance era and was a forerunner of the modern-day tuba. Although it sounds and plays like woodwind instruments such as an oboe or clarinet, the serpent is classed as a brass instrument because it has a trombone-like mouthpiece instead of a reed. I am a tuba player and have played in UK Salvation Army bands all my life, currently with the Staines Band, so this model is right up my street!

### Kit Inspection

This 54m white-metal kit is titled '*Musicien des grenadiers à pied de la garde*' (ref. MUGI). Sculpted by Bruno Leibovitz, it is composed of eight pieces, including a balustrade from the musician to lean on and a metal base. It retails for €26. The model comes in a plastic bag with its parts in bubble wrap to keep everything safe and ensure that no parts are lost or broken in transit.

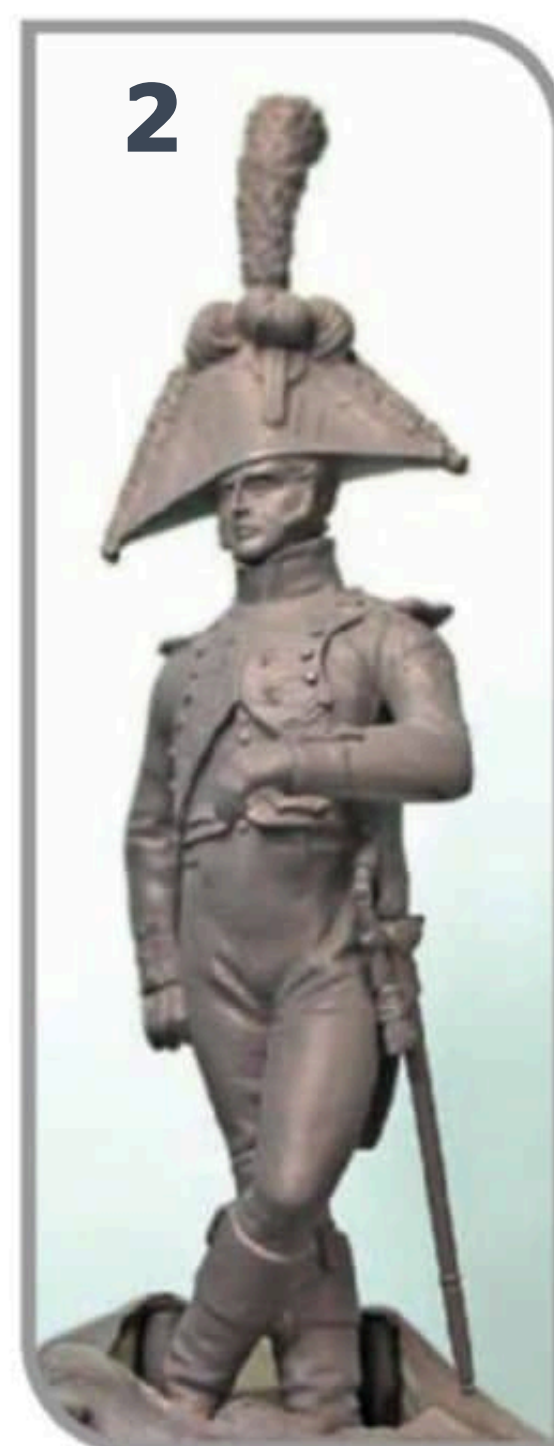
Métal Modeles kits come with colour pictures of the front and back of the completed figure to help guide construction. The colouring guide is in French.

This kit comes in quite a few parts for a metal model. If you enjoy constructing a figure as much as painting it, then this will be a good model for you. Although there are just eight parts, including groundwork in the shape of gravel pavement and the balustrade, the figure should be made to lean against the latter holding the serpent correctly positioned in his right hand. The musician's full dress tall bicorn hat with its large plume and feathers plus the head will need careful gluing and pinning to the body due to its weight.

The completed figure depicts the serpent player resting with his left arm against the balustrade perhaps enjoying the view from where he is, life in general or pondering what will come to be? It is a lovely attitude and shows off to the full his uniform and equipment. I might add a cat or dog to enhance the vignette later.

### Serpent Background

The serpent was invented in Auxerre, France, at the end of the sixteenth century. It was designed to support the plainchant music performed in churches. It has six finger holes arranged in two sets of three with a fundamental note of C. Made of wood (often walnut), the serpent has tone holes like a recorder, but a cup-shaped mouthpiece like a trumpet or trombone.



**2** Assembly of the figure is completed.



**3** The model is undercoated in thinned down acrylics including a dark brown for the start of the gold lace.

Despite its wooden body, which is wrapped in leather or parchment, the serpent is actually classified as a brass instrument. Its six holes combined with the proper techniques allow a player to climb up and down three registers chromatically.

Due to the serpent's bass sound and how it could be played on the move, it quickly found favour in instrumental ensembles including military music groups. A special reinforced version began to appear on the battlefield.

The wood body is sometimes made from several fairly short pieces joined together and covered with leather. In other cases, it was made by gluing together two complete halves of hollowed out blocks of wood. The reason for its serpentine shape is to bring the finger holes and mouthpiece within reach of the player.

It could be played quite loudly. Music theorist Marin Mersenne (1588-1648), who investigated sound frequencies from a scientific standpoint, observed that it could be used "to accompany as many as twenty of the most powerful





**Acrylic paint colours are used to apply highlights and shadows to the facial features.**

singers and yet play the softest chamber music with the most delicate grace notes.”

Toward the end of the eighteenth century, the increased popularity of the serpent in military bands enabled developments in its use. In England, a distinct military serpent was developed with a more compact shape with tighter curves, added extra keys to improve its intonation and metal braces between the bends to increase its rigidity and durability.

Around the same time in France, several makers produced a instruments such as the Serpent Piffault devised for military bands by Piffault of Paris in 1806. It arranged the tubing vertically with an upward turned bell, reminiscent

**Base colours are applied to help create the myriad of gold lace on the musician's jacket.**



**The figure's apparel is painted with base colours including shades of blue, black, red and green.**

of a tenor saxophone, to make it easier to manage when marching.

This model figure represents almost the end of the serpent's use as a military band instrument because innovations during the Industrial Revolution led to the creation of new and more effective musical instruments. The serpent with its six holes soon found a rival in the ophicleide, a real brass instrument with up to twelve keys that made it far more flexible. It was invented in 1819 by another Frenchman. The ophicleide developed into the modern tuba.

The serpent, ophicleide and bombardon mostly disappeared from public view long ago. Nevertheless, the serpent continued to make its voice even though it was considered an exotic instrument used only on special occasions.

In more recent times, the serpent's rebirth began in the 1970s with the work of the late Christopher Monk (1921-1991), who worked tirelessly to revive Ancient music and instruments like the cornett and the serpent. His London Serpent Trio gave the instrument an opportunity to make its voice heard again. Subsequently others have taken up the serpent because of its distinct sound, using it in traditional music and jazz settings.

### **Building the Figure**

This metal figure is quite top-heavy with a tall hat, so the first thing I did was to drill a hole in one of the feet and add a pin made from a paperclip glued with two-part epoxy glue for strength. This aided with holding the



**Back view of base colours painted on the Frenchman's hat and clothes.**

figure and supporting it while adding parts to the model.

The parts went together very well with only a seam up the inside of the legs and a tricky one on the right sleeve needing removing. There was a lump of flash/moulding material on the sabre which needed careful attention with a scalpel.

When adding parts to the figure, I used two-part epoxy resin glue to strengthen the joins and pinned the head to the body as well. Parts were held in place with Blue-Tack adhesive putty and elastic bands while the glue dried.

I used super glue to connect the sabre to the body. I find that the thick version is best for connecting a small

**A mix of medium brown and gold brown colours are applied to the underside of the laces in shade and lower parts of the body and tails at the back.**







**Gold, white and yellow tones are painted on the figure to simulate the weave of his gold lace.**

part to the main body of a figure and thin for sticking small parts like buckles on straps together.

As for the model of the serpent, the brass tubing needed to be bent carefully to the right configuration.

After the two-part epoxy resin had set, I went around the figure with some thin super glue to fill gaps and make the joins stronger. Then I gave it a spray of grey primer.

## Painting Process

Although this kit comes with colouring instructions, I also like to have a colour picture in front of me

**Touches of Vallejo Dark Sea Grey emphasise shadows on serpent player's pants.**



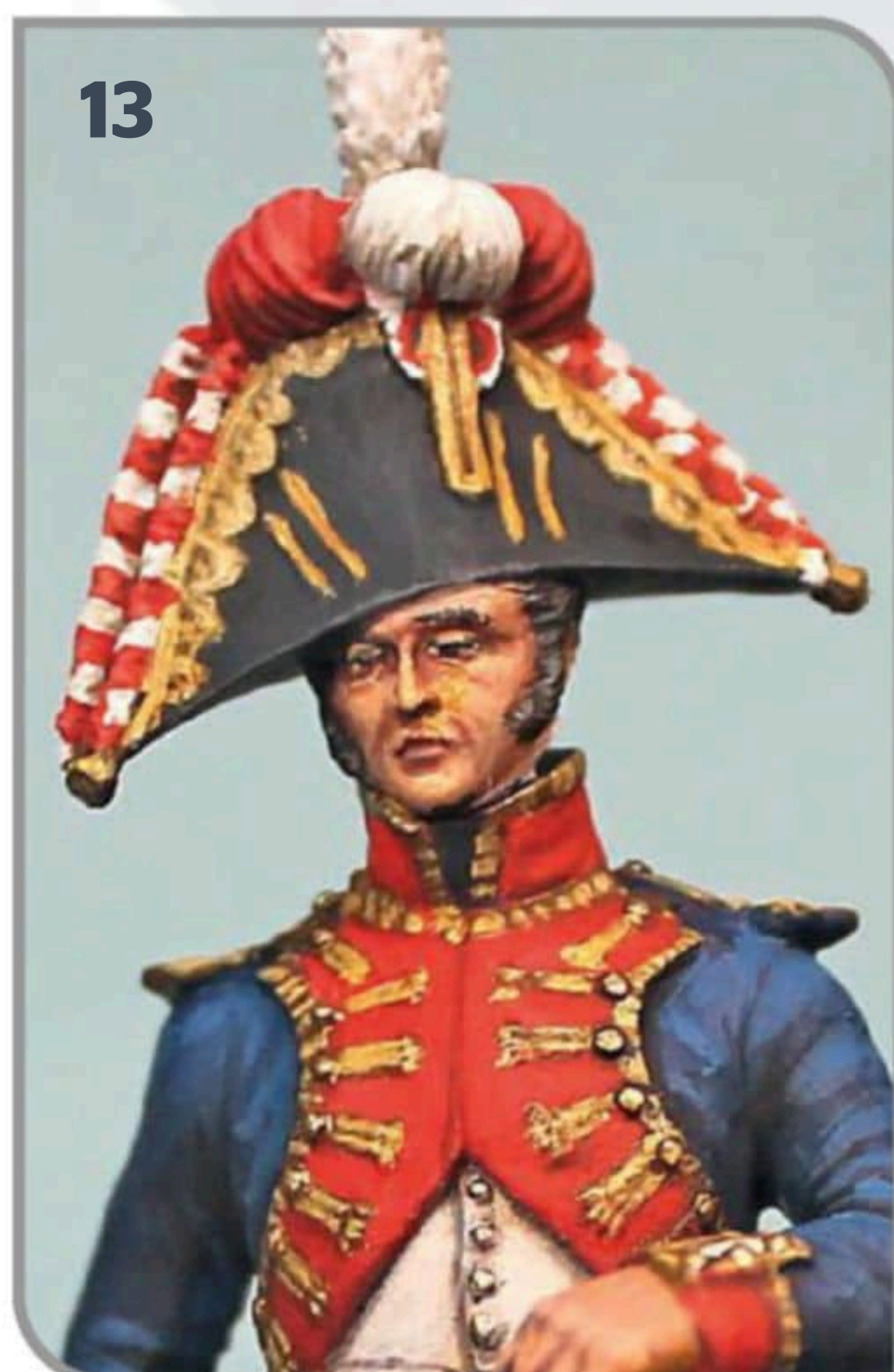
**Mixes of Burnt Umber, Gloss Black, Brass and Light Silver are painted on the sword to emphasise its metal finish.**

when painting to remind myself of bits and pieces. For references during this project, I used the 2010 Osprey Publishing Book *Napoleon's Guard Infantry* and pictures of serpents found on the Internet.

After priming the figure in a grey, I undercoated it using two or three passes of thinned down Vallejo Model Color acrylic paints. This included adding dark brown Burnt Umber (70.941) for the start of the gold lace.

As I usually do when painting the faces of 54mm or 60mm figures, I painted the eyes along with highlights and shadows using combinations of acrylics including Flat Flesh (70.955), Ochre Brown (70.856) and Off-White (70.820) along with Cork Brown

**Gold and white areas on the hat are painted along with touches of red.**



**The white trousers are painted using the Andrea Miniatures White Paint Set.**

(70.843), Cavalry Brown (70.982) and Burnt Umber (70.941). Then I went over the face again to add more highlights and shadows.

Once the facial paint dried, I started painting the figure's apparel with acrylics starting with the base colours of dark Prussian Blue (70.899) and Matt Black (70.950). I used Scalecolor Aldebaran Red (SC-38) along with a mix of Vallejo Beige Red (70.804) mix for highlights and US Dark Green (70.893) and shadows on the facings.

To create the myriad of gold lace on the jacket, I applied a base colour of Burnt Umber mixed with Darkstar

**Back view of paintwork on the hat.**





**15**

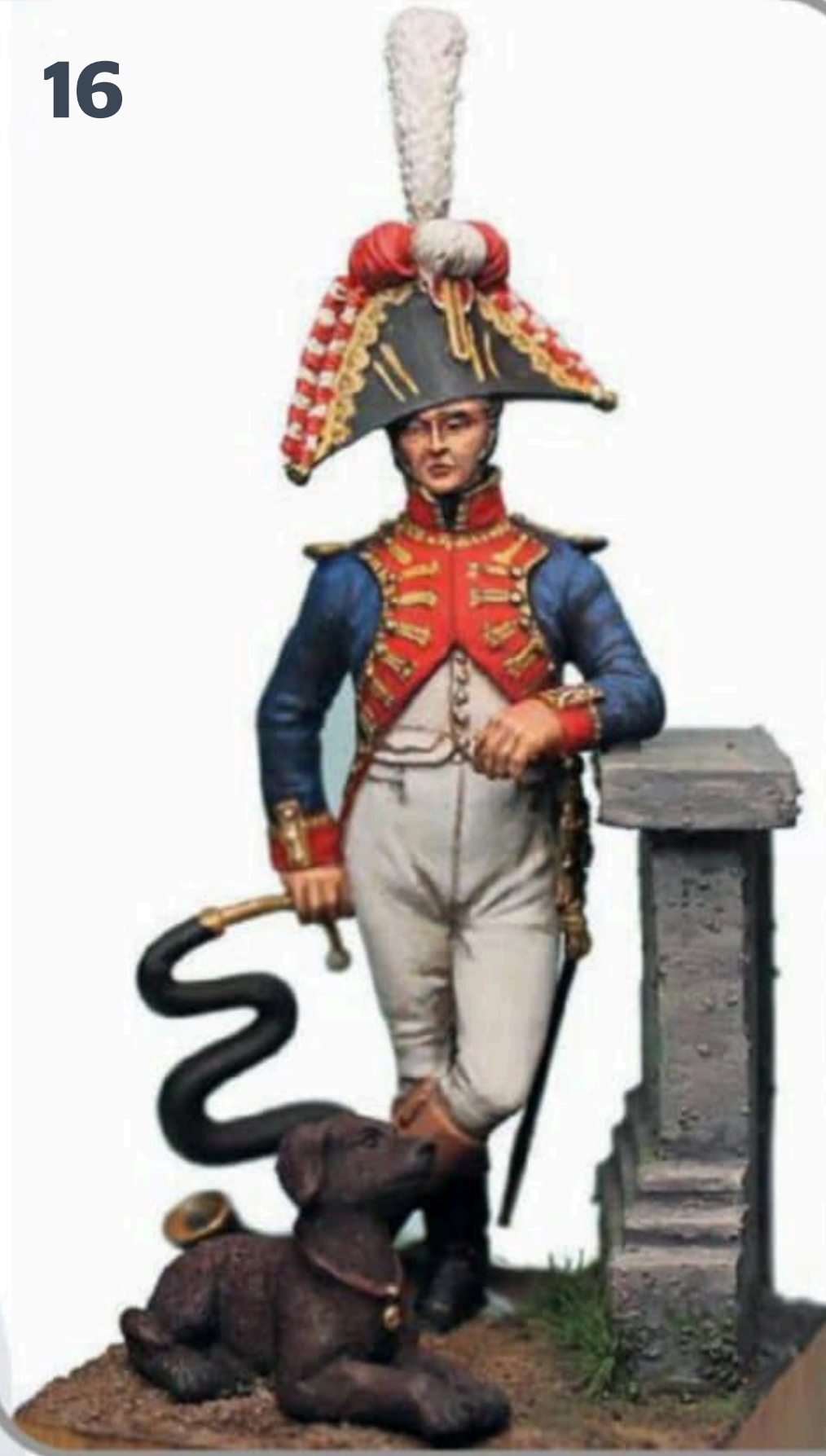

**Groundwork is added to the wooden base.**

Hobbies Molten Metals Braid Gold. Then I applied a medium brown and gold brown mix to the underside of the laces and to the laces in shade and lower parts of the body and tails at the back.

I increased the tone of the gold mixture by applying Ochre Brown to most of the lacing that would be visible. Next, I made the mix again using the Braid Gold and Off-White (70.820) with a touch of Flat Yellow (70.953). This was painted on in very thin strokes to simulate the weave of the gold lace. After checking how things looked, I applied more of the darker mixture

**Side view of the finished model figure project.**

**18**

**16**


**A brown dog adds visual interest to the base's foreground.**

and the highlight mixture as I saw fit. In several places, I applied a wash of the mid-gold mix to bring the tones together.

The brass buttons and the sabre were painted using a base mix of Burnt Umber mixed with Gloss Black (70.861) and then highlighted with Brass (70.801) and dots of light added over this with Light Silver (70.997) to emphasise the metal finish.

Once I was happy with the gold and brass, I cut back onto the gold with the background dark blue or red jacket colours to define the edges of the laces. The white trousers were painted using

**Rear view of the Frenchman.**

**19**

**17**


**The serpent is painted in Matt Black and highlighted with a mix of Dark Sea Grey while the tubing and bell end are painted in brass and the mouthpiece in Off-White.**

the Andrea Miniatures White Paint Set (ACS-003). It provided a correct mix of colours for the pants though I added some Vallejo Dark Sea Grey (70.991) to emphasise the shadows.

The same process was used for the gold lace and to add white on the hat with the addition of touches of Flat Red (70.957).

The serpent was painted in Matt Black and highlighted with a mix of Dark Sea Grey. The instrument's tubing and bell end were painted in brass as before with the mouthpiece painted in Off-White since it would have been made of ivory being made of ivory.

**Closeup view of the musician's details.**

**20**




The front of the model's base looked a bit sparse so I decided to add a figure of a dog for visual interest. I have accumulated a few dogs and cats from various manufacturers through the years which I have in my spares box, so I chose one that suited the space and painted it in a mid-brown with the eyes and nose in Gloss Black.

## Finishing Touches

A wooden base of a suitable size was chosen. The groundwork was completed with a couple of washes of dark and mid-tone browns to simulate muddy terrain. Then I added some foliage.

The balustrade was glued in place using two-part epoxy resin glue. I painted the stonework in a mix of greys by primarily using Vallejo Dark Sea Grey with touches of Off-White and darker tones from the Andrea White Paint Set.

After it dried, I drilled holes to attach the figure, serpent and the dog. I inserted cocktail sticks coated in washing-up liquid to prevent them from sticking to the plaster and applied a mix of plaster and sand sparingly over the wooden base.

The musician, serpent and dog were attached to the base with two-part epoxy resin glue. Finally, I completed this model figure project by adding a nameplate to the base from Name It! as usual.

I enjoyed making this figure, especially due to its significance to my own history as a musician. Like all Métal Modeles kits, it painted up quite well.

I would encourage any fellow hobbyist to have a go at painting a figure with a lot of lace because although it needs a fair bit of effort, the result is well worth it and is another step in developing your painting skills.

21



Adding a nameplate to the wooden base completes the Napoleonic French musician project.

## CONTACT

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## ABOUT THE WRITER

**Paul Newman** is a keen modeller whose main interest is the Napoleonic Wars, particularly British cavalry. He is a long-time member of the British Model Soldier Society and serves as its treasurer, while his wife, Julie, is its secretary. Together

they help spearhead organising the BMSS Annual Show. Paul's memberships have also included Planetfigure and The Basement. In addition, the Newmans operate Name It! providing engraved nameplates to model figure enthusiasts. They can be found manning their stand at many major European shows.



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# A LOOK AT BOOKS

OUR REVIEWERS CHECK OUT SOME NEW BOOKS THAT MIGHT PIQUE THE INTEREST OF HOBBYISTS AND HISTORY BUFFS.

## Solo Wargaming

### ABOUT THE BOOK

**Author:** David Heading

**Published by:** Pen & Sword Military

**ISBN:** 978-1-399055-53-6

**Price:** £20/\$34.95 US

Reviewed by Stuart A. Hessney

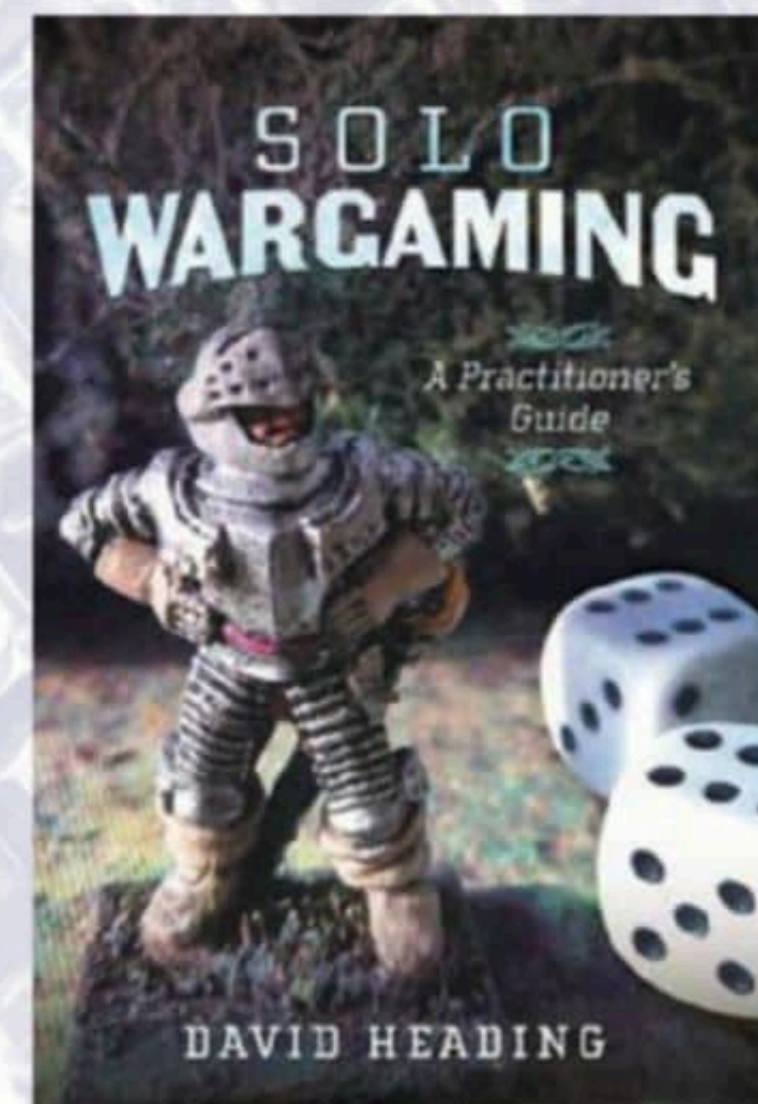
David Heading shares illuminating insights, tricks and tips in his new book *Solo Wargaming: A Practitioner's Guide*.

The author begins by addressing the fundamental question of why people play solo wargames and points out some pros and cons. I found it interesting how he raises the question of whether to play both opposing sides or command just one army against an 'automatic' foe. Then Heading supports this option by sharing his expertise on how to control or programme an

opposing force with cards, dice or other ways.

The reader will gain advice on how to create engaging tactical scenarios for one-off engagements whether they major historical battles or mere skirmishes or in turn fold them into wider campaigns entailing consideration of factors such as logistics and grand strategy. This book also suggests ways to fan the flames of interest by tracking results, maintaining campaign diaries or writing online blogs.

Heading has been playing solo wargames for around 40 years so he has lots of insights, good advice and inspirations to share for solo wargaming all kinds of conflicts whether they are waged at sea, on land or in the skies and they are based on history or whatever a player can conjure up using his or her imagination.



Ten mono illustrations help this 200-page hardcover book deliver information and inspirations that could enrich everyone from a veteran player to a beginner.

Our thanks to the publisher's ([www.pen-and-sword.co.uk](http://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk)) US distributor Casemate Publishers ([www.casematepublishers.com](http://www.casematepublishers.com)) for a review copy.

## Hamburg 1940-45

### ABOUT THE BOOK

**Author:** Richard Worrall

**Illustrator:** Mads Bangsø

**Published by:** Osprey Publishing, Air Campaign 44

**ISBN:** 978-14728-592-80

**Price:** £16.99/\$25 US

Reviewed by Stephen Healey

Having recently read the 1979 book *Bomber Command* by Max Hastings, I found the new paperback *Hamburg 1940-45: The Long War Against Germany's Great Port City* to be intriguing. Author Richard Worrall goes into great detail about how the Royal Air Force Bomber Command targeted the city during World War II because of its importance to Nazi Germany's overall economy due to its factories, oil refineries and key role in the construction and maintenance of surface warfare ships and U-boats.

Leaflets were the first 'bombs' dropped on Germany's second largest

city in January 1940, but they were soon superseded by actual bombing missions flown by Wellington, Lancaster and Mosquito aircraft aimed 'de-housing' civilians to try to affect their morale and productivity.

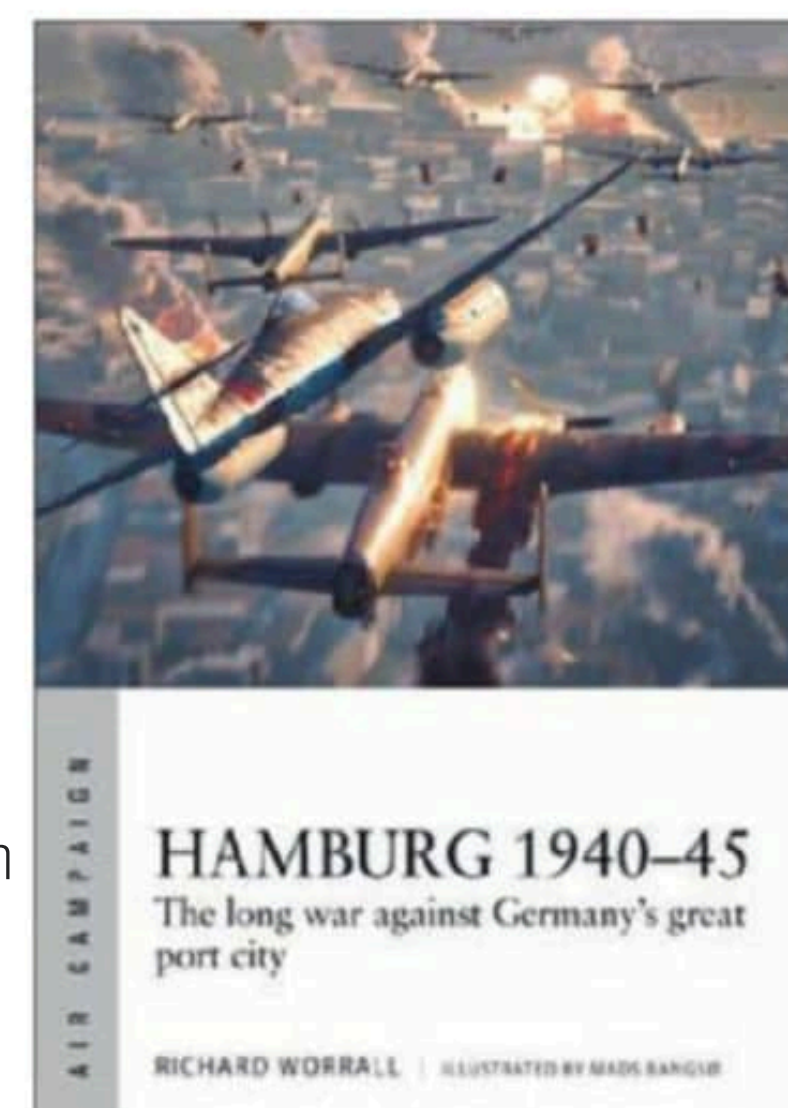
The author describes how German countermeasures included deploying 88mm Flak guns, Luftwaffe night and day fighters, and the development of jamming technologies. The Messerschmitt Me 262, the world's first operational jet-powered aircraft, took wing beginning in 1944 and played a defensive role, but it was too little too late. Bomber Command had thousands of aircraft available for raids by 1944 and resistance was futile.

Hamburg was the fifth-most bombed German city under the Allied strategic bombing strategy. The apex of those efforts was Operation Gomorrah during

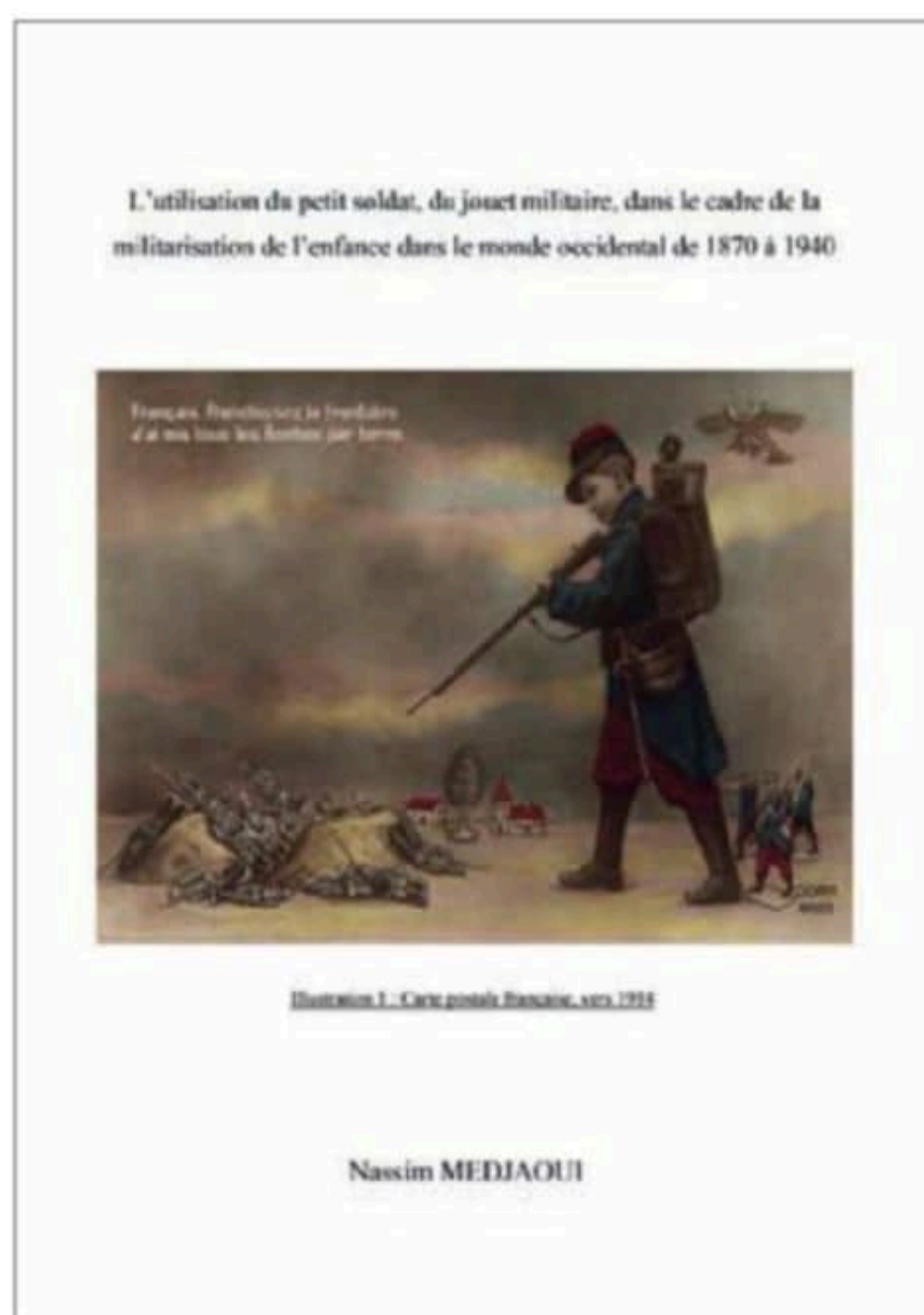
the last week of July 1943 in which British and US bombers triggered a firestorm that killed an estimated 37,000 people, wounded 180,000 and destroyed 60 per cent of the city's houses. As many as 1 million people were evacuated.

This 96-paperback recounts how strategic bombing was originally thought of as a strategy to defeat an enemy by airpower alone, but by the end of World War II it was seen as being only one tool in the Allied arsenal to defeat the Axis Powers.

Our thanks to the publisher ([ospreypublishing.com](http://ospreypublishing.com)) for providing a review copy.







his interest in hunting for vintage toy soldiers made of aluminium, composition and lead. His collection currently totals about 7,000 figures ranging from old figures made in France, Germany and the USA to contemporary makers such as Hong Kong-based King & Country Ltd.

His book documents groundbreaking research into how toys have played propaganda and psychological roles in the militarization of childhood in the Western world between 1870 and 1940. Nassim acknowledges how information about early makers is scant while gratefully acknowledging the work of writers who have preceded him when it comes to their in-depth research into toy soldiers.

I flunked junior high school French, but I was able to able to navigate this 250-page book thanks to a translation app, asking Nassim questions and simply gazing at the 84 illustrations. Better still as far as this reader is concerned, he plans to publish an English language version anytime now. Please email the author at [nassimmedjaoui@yahoo.fr](mailto:nassimmedjaoui@yahoo.fr) for additional information.

## L'utilisation du petit soldat, du jouet militaire, dans le cadre de la militarization de l'enfance dans le monde occidental de 1870 à 1940

### ABOUT THE BOOK

**Author:** Nassim Medjaoui

**Published by:** Self-Published

**Price:** €67/\$70 US

Reviewed by Stuart A. Hessney

I would daresay that I am a fairly knowledgeable collector, but sadly my knowledge of French toy soldier makers is limited to CBG Mignot, the Britains Paris Office, Starlux, Lucotte, Georges Munckle and a few others. As a result, I was intrigued to meet 24-year-old Frenchman Nassim Medjaoui at September's Chicagoland Toy Soldier Show because he had hunted down and was selling so many interesting figures I had never seen or even heard of before.

Even more impressively, the Sorbonne graduate has turned his Master's degree thesis into a self-published book titled *L'utilisation du petit soldat, du jouet militaire, dans le cadre de la militarization de l'enfance dans le monde occidental de 1870 à 1940* (*The Use of the Toy Soldier, the Military Toy, in the Context of the Militarization of Childhood in the Western World from 1870 to 1940*).

Nassim's lifelong interests in writing and history led to him start collecting and painting toy soldiers and model figures in 2012. Advice from fellow collectors and dealers spurred



SFJB papier-mâché French hussar circa 1910.



Delhi Durbar display set by CBG Mignot.

## Write a Book Review!

Do you have a non-fiction book of interest that you'd like to review in *TSC&HF*? Then please get in touch with the editor, Stuart A. Hessney, about requirements via e-mail at [stuart@guidelinepublicationsusa.com](mailto:stuart@guidelinepublicationsusa.com).



# Jamestown 1622: The Anglo-Powhatan Wars

ABOUT THE BOOK

Author: Cameron Colby

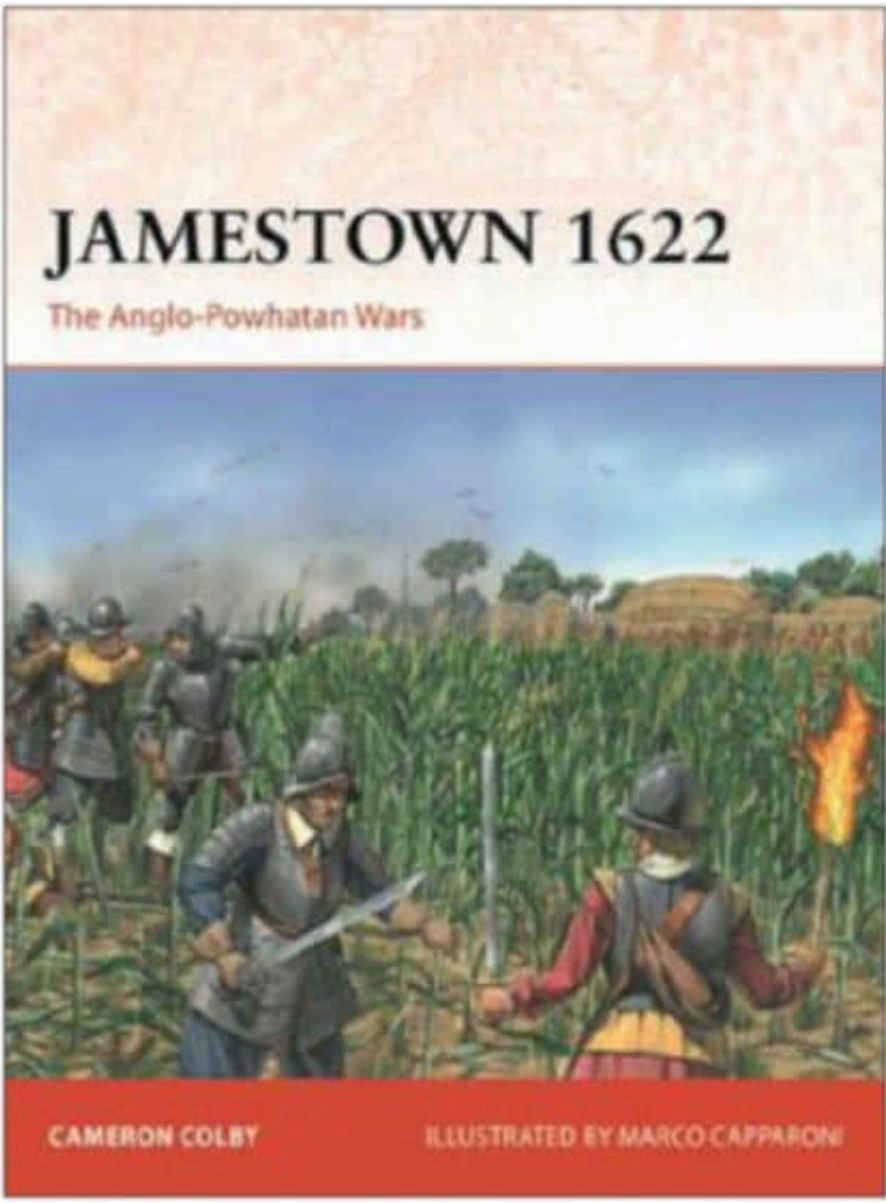
Illustrator: Marco Capparoni

Published by: Osprey Publishing, Campaign 401

ISBN: 978-1-47286-192-5

Price: £16.99/\$25 US

Reviewed by Stephen Healey



Most of us in the USA are aware of the founding of the Jamestown colony in Virginia in 1609. It was an effort by Great Britain to establish a presence in North America that might be longer-lasting and more permanent than its failed Roanoke colony farther south.

The impetus was to gain gold and try to catch up with other European nations establishing far-flung empires. Coincidentally, Spain had established an earlier presence near the site of Jamestown but it was eliminated violently by the local indigenous peoples. It should have been an ominous warning to the English.

The Jamestown colony was initially a business venture for profit. It almost failed several times but a constant supply of new settlers, livestock and goods kept it going. Relations with the region’s Powhatan Confederacy were always mixed -- friendly at some points and violent at others.

Author Cameron Colby’s focuses on the three wars between the English colonists and the local Powhatan tribes beginning in 1622. The native peoples desired to eradicate the interlopers so the conflicts were extremely violent. Atrocities were seemingly the norm. In the end, the English prevailed and the ‘haphazard’ colonial investment became a more determined and permanent occupation.

This 96-page paperback provides an excellent overview of the nature and design of settlement, how Jamestown evolved organisationally and militarily, and the indigenous peoples’ culture. The text is suffused with maps and illustrations that provide lots of details. I recommend this interesting study because it provides lots more information than we were taught in school.

Our thanks to the publisher ([ospreypublishing.com](http://ospreypublishing.com)) for providing a review copy.

# The Weimar Years: Rise and Fall 1918-1933

ABOUT THE BOOK

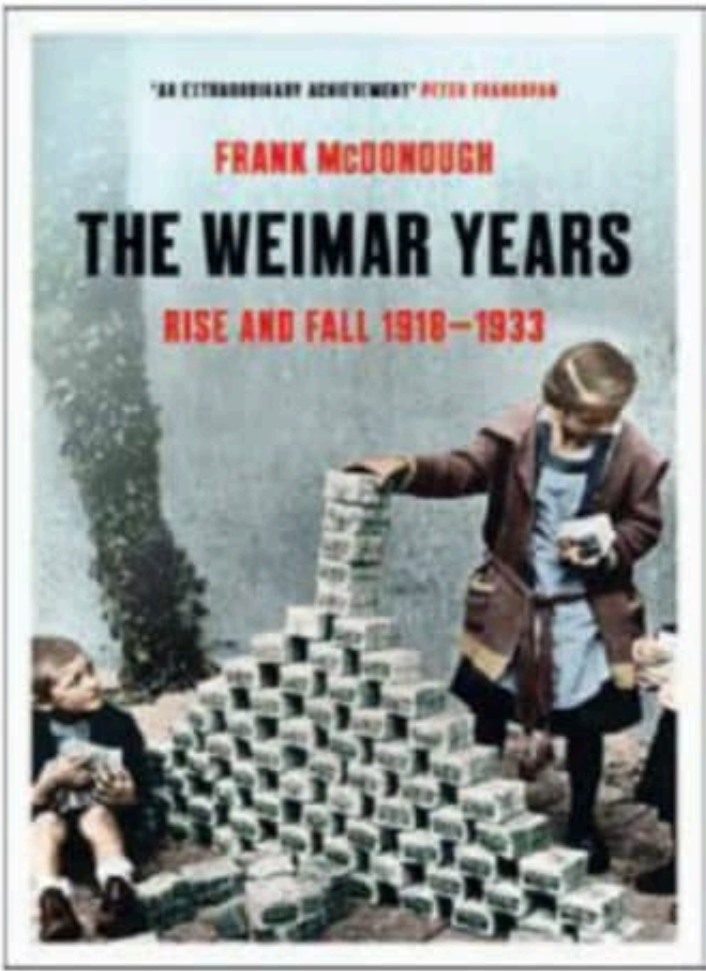
Author: Frank McDonough

Published by: Bloomsbury Publishing

ISBN 978-180328-479-8

Price: £12.99/\$20.99 US

Reviewed by Stephen Healey



This book provides a detailed overview of the tumultuous Weimar Republic from the end of World War I to the appointment of Adolf Hitler as chancellor of Germany in January 1933.

It is a prequel to a two-part study of Hitler’s Third Reich. In that respect, author Frank McDonough traces events that led to Hitler’s elevation by Reich President Von Hindenburg, scion of a noble Junker family and a hero of World War I. *The Weimar Years: Rise and Fall 1918-1933* traces how that event would lead to the Hitler dictatorship, Holocaust and World War II.

Germany had been forced to sign a one-sided armistice in November 1918 that acknowledged guilt in starting the war, called for costly reparations and ceded territory, leaving a bitter taste. The country had already deposed its royalty and proclaimed the Weimar Republic, but some felt that Germany had been ‘stabbed in the back’ by politicians, Jews and revolutionary socialists at home.

Many Germans felt they didn’t lost the war adding fuel to the fiery debate about foreign and domestic policies. It wasn’t long before a desire for revenge manifested itself while chancellors and the elected Reichstag tried to mitigate the terms of the treaty and appease the electorate.

Professor McDonough delves into hardships caused by economic reversals, including the Great Depression. The country also experienced seemingly endless turmoil including coup attempts by both right and left wing forces. The complex cultural narrative also covers the Bauhaus artistic movement, cabaret culture and developments in the German film industry.

Against this backdrop the failure of parliamentary democracy to create stability led to Germany drifting to authoritarian rule under the Nazis. Maps and a plethora of photographs illuminate the narrative. I enjoyed reading this study and recommend it.

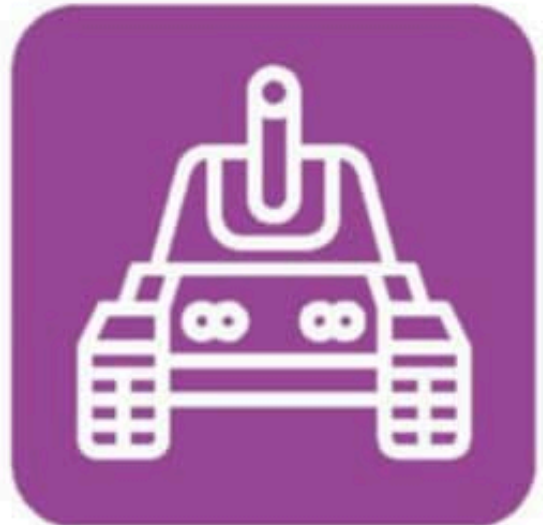
Our thanks to the publisher ([www.bloomsbury.com](http://www.bloomsbury.com)) for providing a review copy.



# 2 SHOWS: 1 DAY!



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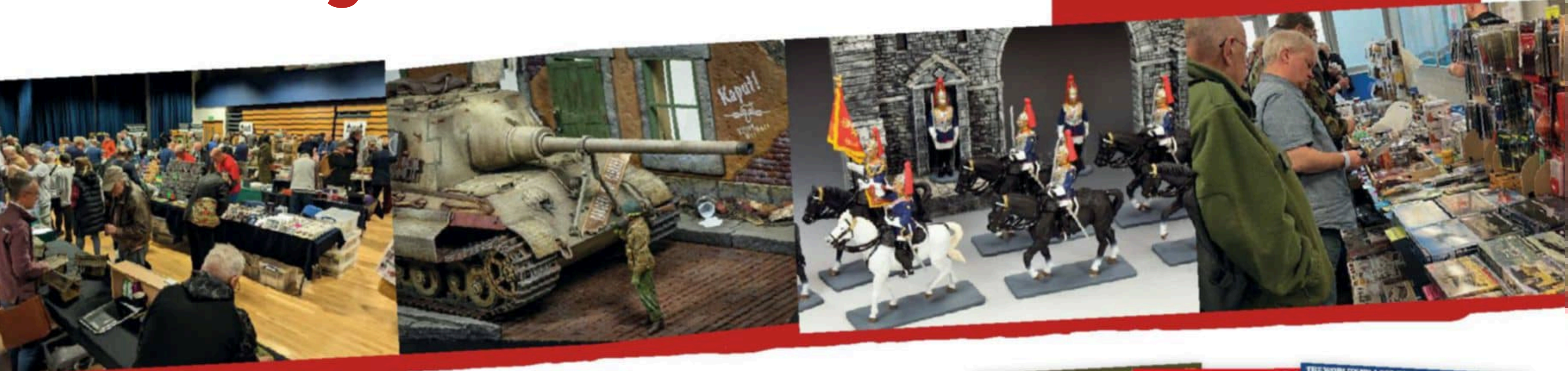
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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Organisers must submit show details in advance and any subsequent updates via email to [stuart@guidelinepublicationsusa.com](mailto:stuart@guidelinepublicationsusa.com). Readers are urged to check with organisers and online about possible postponements or cancellations before finalising plans to attend an event.

## December

**Sunday, 1 December**

### Bugle Call

Nailsea School, 'The Link', Mizzymead Road, Nailsea, North Somerset, UK, BS48 2HN. 10:00-16:30. Staged by the Bristol Area Branch of the British Model Soldier Society and Planet Figure, the event will feature open competitions, club displays, demonstrations, re-enactors and traders. Admission £5 for adults, £4 for OAP, £2 for children under age twelve and £9 for families. Contacts: traders: Bob Orr, email [boborr@talktalk.net](mailto:boborr@talktalk.net); clubs: Kevin Peart, email: [slenderboy0247@gmail.com](mailto:slenderboy0247@gmail.com); Website: [www.bmssbristol.org.uk](http://www.bmssbristol.org.uk).

**Saturday, 7 December**

### Heart of the South Toy Soldier, Military & Miniature Figure Show & Sale

Annandale VFD Community Center, 7128 Columbia Pike, Annandale, Virginia, USA, 22003. Details and contacts same as above.

**Saturday, 7 December**

### London Toy Soldier & Historical Figures Show

Haverstock School, 24 Haverstock Hill, Chalk Farm, London, NW3 2BQ, UK. **Europe's No. 1 toy soldier show.**

Hours: 09:30 to 10:30 (early bird admission £10), 10:30 to 14:00 (£6) and 14:00 to 16:00 (£4); prepaid tickets £5 from 10:30; children under age sixteen free. Contact: Stella Reason: UK tel: +44 (0)1582 668411 or email [stella@guidelinepublications.co.uk](mailto:stella@guidelinepublications.co.uk) for information, trader reservations and tickets; Tom Foxon: UK tel: +44 (0)7540 153368 or email: [tom@guidelinepublications.co.uk](mailto:tom@guidelinepublications.co.uk) regarding general enquiries. Website: [www.toysoldiershow.co.uk](http://www.toysoldiershow.co.uk).

**Sunday, 8 December**

### London Plastic Modelling Show, Haverstock School

24 Haverstock Hill, Chalk Farm, London, NW3 2BQ, UK

Hours: 10:00 to 16:00. Admission £6. Features traders, club displays and an annual open competition with classes reflecting all the modelling genres covered by Guideline Publications magazines and more. Contact details the same as above.

## February

**Saturday, 22 February**

### Heart of the South Toy Soldier, Military & Miniature Figure Militaria Collectibles Exhibition & Sale

Annandale VFD Community Center, 7128 Columbia Pike, Annandale, Virginia, USA, 22003. Contact: Ed Gries of Relic Golden Amusements, US tel: +1 (201) 342-6475, email: [RelicRack94@gmail.com](mailto:RelicRack94@gmail.com) and on Facebook.

## March

**Sunday, 9 March**

### West Coaster Toy Soldier Show and Sale

New Venue: Doubletree by Hilton, 7000 Beach Boulevard, Buena Park, California, USA 90620. 09:30 to 15:00. Admission \$10 with children free. Early bird admission at 08:00 \$20. Preshow hotel room trading is planned for the prior Friday and Saturday. Contact: organiser Matthew Murphy of Hobby Bunker, US tel: +1 (781) 321-8855 or email [westcoaster@gmail.com](mailto:westcoaster@gmail.com).

**Saturday and Sunday, 1 and 2 March**

### Montreux Miniatures Show, Salle Omnisports

Clarens, Switzerland. 11:00 to 18:00 Saturday and 10:00 to 16:30 Sunday. Free admission. The event will feature traders, demonstrations of painting figures and scale models, Warhammer tournaments, and an international competition. Website: [www.mtxms.ch](http://www.mtxms.ch).

**Sunday, 16 March**

### New Jersey Toy Soldier, Military & Miniature Figure Militaria Collectibles Exhibition & Sale

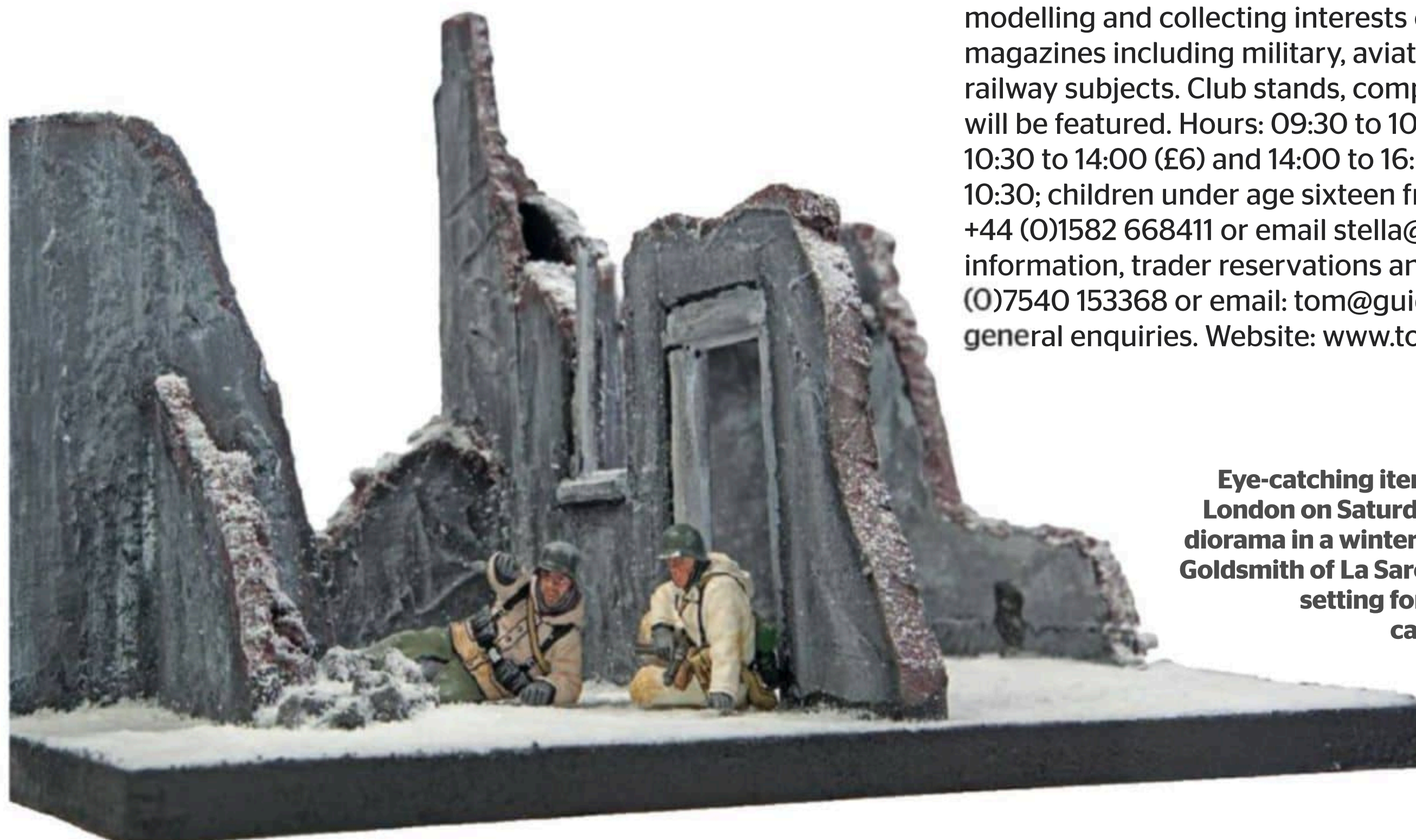
Wayne Police Athletic League (PAL), 1 Pal Drive, Wayne, New Jersey, USA. 09:00 to 15:00. Admission \$6; children under age 10 free. Contact: Contact: Ed Gries of Relic Golden Amusements, US tel: +1 (201) 342-6475, email: [RelicRack94@gmail.com](mailto:RelicRack94@gmail.com) and on Facebook.

**Saturday, 29 March**

### Spring Model Show sponsored by Guideline Publications

Haverstock School, 24 Haverstock Hill, Chalk Farm, London NW3 2BQ, UK.

**Europe's No. 1 toy soldier show** plus traders specialising in all the modelling and collecting interests covered by Guideline's varied magazines including military, aviation, fantasy, truck, car, farm and railway subjects. Club stands, competitions and demonstrations will be featured. Hours: 09:30 to 10:30 (early bird admission £10), 10:30 to 14:00 (£6) and 14:00 to 16:00 (£4); prepaid tickets £5 from 10:30; children under age sixteen free. Contact: Stella Reason: UK tel: +44 (0)1582 668411 or email [stella@guidelinepublications.co.uk](mailto:stella@guidelinepublications.co.uk) for information, trader reservations and tickets; Tom Foxon: UK tel: +44 (0)7540 153368 or email: [tom@guidelinepublications.co.uk](mailto:tom@guidelinepublications.co.uk) regarding general enquiries. Website: [www.toysoldiershow.co.uk](http://www.toysoldiershow.co.uk).



Eye-catching items at last year's Spring Model Show in London on Saturday, 23 March, included a ruined house diorama in a wintertime setting created by UK-based Jeff Goldsmith of La Sarouche Diorama Bases. It was a perfect setting for 1/30-scale German soldiers in winter camouflage. (Photo by Andy Whittaker)



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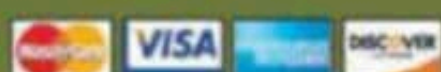
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# PRIZE EXERCISE

## Win Last Post's Ancient Roman Amphora Shop

By Stuart A. Hessney

This time *TSC&HF* readers have an exclusive chance to win an Ancient Roman 'Amphora Seller' shop (ref. BLDO12) courtesy of Australia-based craftsmen Frank Sultana and Sven De Braekeleir.

They are partners in Last Post Miniatures and Sven is the proprietor of the Peter Nathan Toy Soldiers Shop in Sydney. The creative duo crafts all sorts of scenic items to enhance hobbyists' vignettes and dioramas.

The nicely detailed 'Amphora Seller' is just one example of a variety of 1/30-scale shops being produced by Last Post to complement the colourful new 'Streets of Ancient Rome' range of civilian figures by King & Country Ltd. Like others in the series, this hand-painted building is 230mm high by 150mm wide by 80mm deep.

The façade features a terracotta sign and a detachable amphora. Amphoras were indispensable ceramic vessels in the Ancient world used to

contain wine, olive oil, grains, fish sauce, spices and even perfume. The example pictured here is a prototype. The commercially available model's opening on the ground floor will be positioned differently.

One very lucky reader can win this fantastic prize package valued at \$240 AU simply by sending in the correct answer to the following question:

### How to Win!

All entries must be submitted with your complete contact details, including a daytime telephone number. Entries should be emailed to *TSC&HF* Editor Stuart A. Hessney at [stuart@guidelinepublicationsusa.com](mailto:stuart@guidelinepublicationsusa.com). All entries must be received by 31 January 2025.

**Good luck!**



Our readers have a chance to win the 'Amphora Seller' shop façade (ref. BLDO12) by Last Post Miniatures. The K&C figures shown are not included but appear thanks to kind permission from the maker.

**Who is the New Zealand-born actor and longtime Australia resident who won an Academy Award for Best Actor for playing the Ancient Roman title role in the movie *Gladiator* (2000).**

- A. Hugh Jackman    B. Russell Crowe**  
**C. Taika Waititi    D. Mel Gibson**

### CONTACT

Last Post Miniatures  
8 Northmead Avenue  
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Website: [www.lastpostminiatures.com.au](http://www.lastpostminiatures.com.au)  
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### Previous Winner Announced

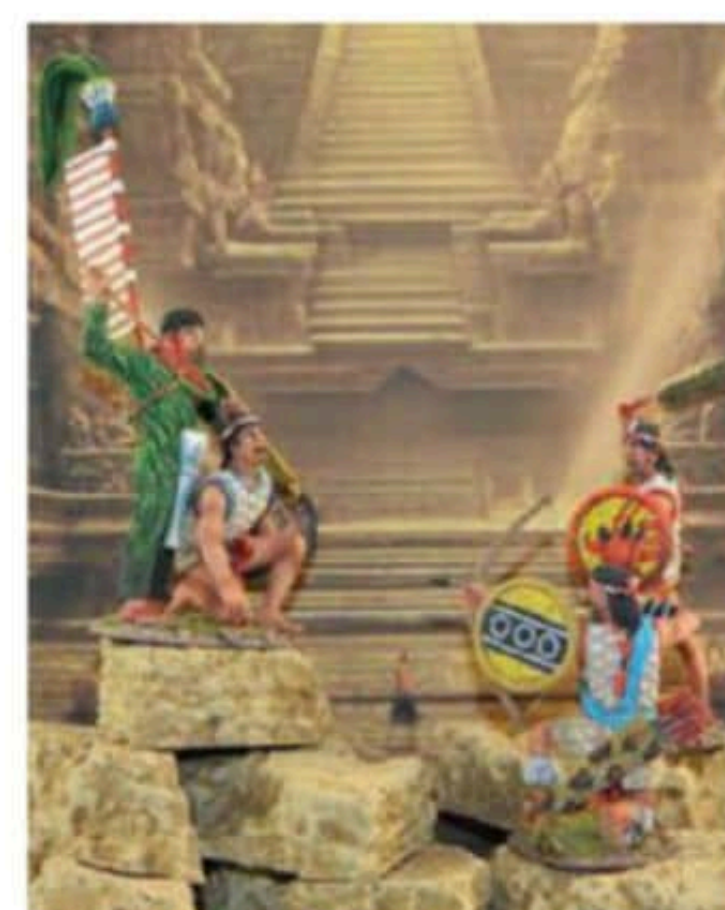
Congratulations to the very lucky winner of the issue 118 prize competition featuring 1/30-scale Aztec-themed items complete with a scenic setting thanks to the generosity of Treefrog Treasures proprietor Julie Abraham.

Central America's Aztec Empire was an alliance of three city-states that ruled the region in and around the Valley of Mexico from 1428 until being defeated by Spanish *conquistadores* commanded by Hernán Cortés and their native allies in 1521. The prize package features figures from the 'Conquest of America' range by John Jenkins Designs including a dramatic two-figure 'Aztec Priest with Captive' sacrificial set (ref. AZ-22) and a colourful

pair of 'Tlaxcaltec Warriors' (ref. TX-05) allied to the Spaniards. For scenic effects, the grouping includes a 'Pack of Small Desert Rocks' (ref. S46a) by JG Miniatures and a 'priceless' Aztec temple interior image that Julie printed out and mounted on a Foamcore board herself.

This fantastic prize page has an aggregate retail value of \$190 US. It was won by American reader Michael Kutnick, who correctly answered that Moctezuma II was the Aztec emperor at the time of the Spanish conquest.

Congratulations to the very fortunate winner and thanks to all the other readers from around the world who submitted entries. Please keep on trying because you've got to be in it to win it!



**A lucky reader has won Aztec-themed figures complete with a scenic temple setting thanks to Treefrog Treasures.**

### CONTACT

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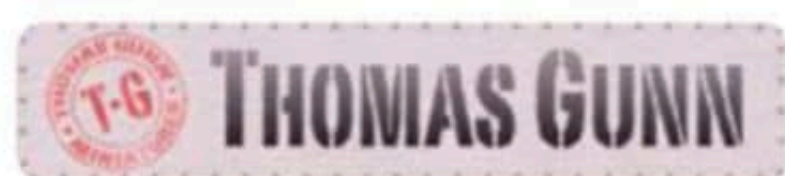
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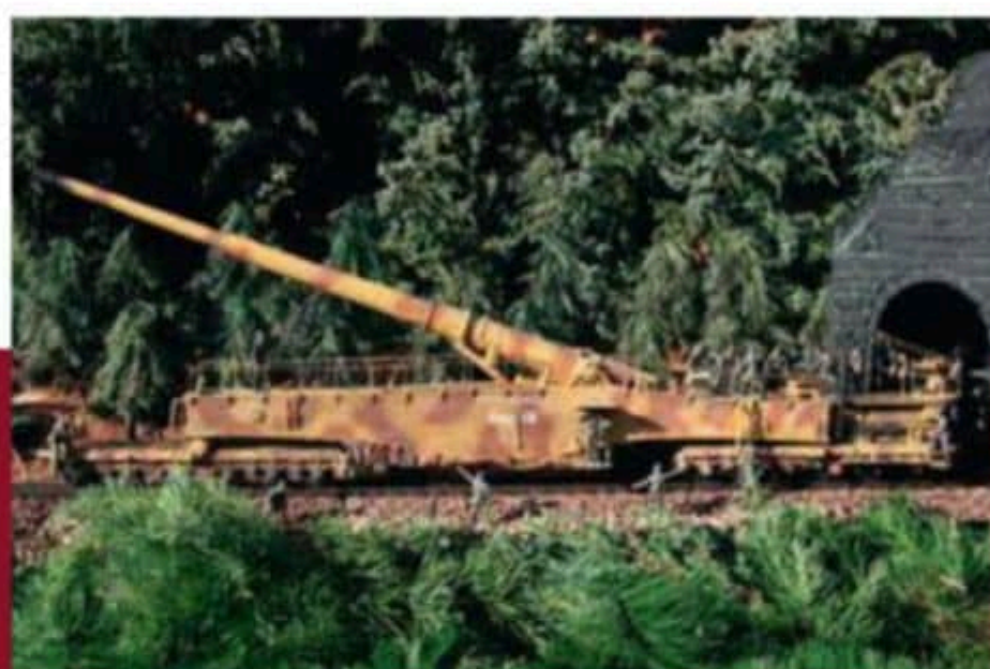
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*Requiescat In Pace*

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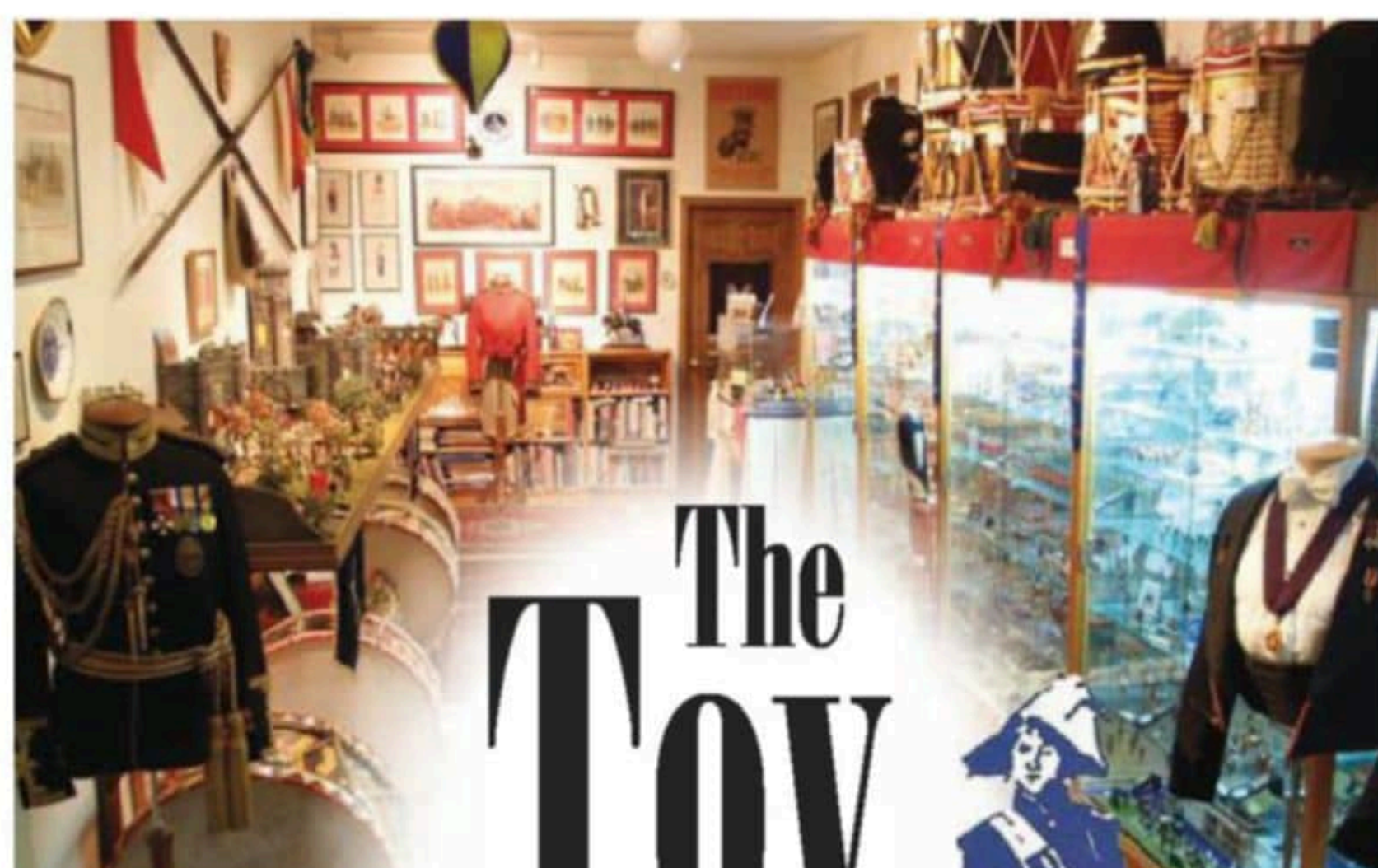
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# Man of TIN's Figures In London Exhibition

**Mark Norris** recounts how examples of his toy soldier restorations were part of a UK arts and crafts exhibit.

**Text and Photos: Mark Norris**

Some of my 54mm vintage toy soldiers were featured in an arts and crafts hobby exhibition in London called 'Come as You Really Are' from 18 July to 20 October.

The exhibition of 14,000 different objects was staged in The Hobby Cave at Grants of Croydon, a department store built in 1894 that has been converted into an entertainment complex. Out of thousands of submissions, several hundred hobbyists, artists and crafters were selected to display the diversity of pastimes in modern Britain. The showcase was curated by British artist Hetain Patel and the Artangel London team.

I enjoy sharing my hobby via my online 'Man of TIN' blog and engaging with a community of like-minded collectors and wargamers, so I thought it was important for toy figures to be represented. I was fortunate enough to be chosen to participate in the exhibition with a selection of 200 of my home-casts as well as restored and repainted figures. They include metal detector finds and scrap job lots of broken hollow-cast figures. I shipped about 9 kilos of vintage lead to London.

Rather than doing individualised displays, the curator and artists arranged objects in interesting patterns juxtaposed with other crafts and collections. My toy soldiers were arranged in a big roundel with colourful Native Americans and repaired African Zulus encircling a mix of Redcoats and Bluejackets. They were flanked by Warhammer figures and *Star Wars* gaming spaceships were suspended in the air.

Part of the exhibition is expected to go on tour around the UK during 2025-2026. Hopefully my troops will be involved, but I have missed not having some of my colourful figures full of character at home for my tabletop gaming.



**Mark's Croydon expeditionary force dubbed 'The Two Hundred' was arranged by artist Hetain Patel and Artangel London for the exhibition.**



**Examples of 'wounded' figures and Mark's skilful rejuvenations.**

## ABOUT THE WRITER

**Mark Norris** has enjoyed collecting and gaming with plastic and metal Airfix, Britains and other toy soldiers since his childhood in the 1970s. About twenty years ago he began home-casting figures and repairing old toy soldiers to build up his

Imagi-Nations wargaming army. Mark enjoys wargaming using skirmish rules mapped out by the late Donald Featherstone and the challenges of recreating clashes ranging from snowball fights to space battles on the tabletop. Readers can visit his Man of Tin blog at [www.manoftinblog.wordpress.com](http://www.manoftinblog.wordpress.com).



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## COMING NEXT TIME IN ISSUE 121 OF **TOY SOLDIER COLLECTOR & HISTORICAL FIGURES**



### **SMALL SOVEREIGN STATES' SOLDIERS**

Colin Luxford studies the military forces of some small sovereign states like the *Compagnie des Carabiniers du Prince* (Prince's Company of Carabiniers) of Monaco and collects examples in miniature.



### **THE BIRTH OF A BAND BY HAND**

Military band enthusiast Joseph Reed recounts how he has reinforced his factory-made toy soldiers by painting figures himself to create groups like this concert band of the Royal Green Jackets.



# KING & COUNTRY

LW091

ERICH HARTMANN's  
Messerschmitt Bf. 109 'GUSTAV'



## Ace of Aces



**ERICH HARTMANN (1922-1993)** was the most successful fighter ace in the history of aerial warfare. He flew 1404 missions and took part in 825 separate combat missions.

During those he shot down 345 Soviet aircraft and another 7 American ones for a total of 352 'kills' while flying with Hitler's Luftwaffe.

At the same time Hartmann was forced to crash-land his aircraft 16 times either through mechanical failure or damage caused by debris parts of enemy aircraft he had already shot down.

Erich Hartmann achieved his final 'victory' at midday on 8 May, 1945 just hours before Germany's surrender. After the war he spent 10 long years in various Russian Prison camps before being released in 1955. Following his freedom Erich Hartmann reentered military service in West Germany's Bundeswehr Air Force.

He rose to the rank of Colonel and took command of the peacetime JG71, the famous 'Richtofen' squadron flying Lockheed F104 Starfighters.

### THE WINTER 'GUSTAV'

While flying with the wartime Luftwaffe Hartmann flew several different marks of Messerschmitt Bf. 109 aircraft. By far his favourite was the 109 'GUSTAV' on which he achieved many of his victories.

This latest 1:30 scale King & Country 'Gustav' is one of several that he flew during the late winter months of 1944 and into early 1945 commanding JG 53 on the Eastern Front.

Each aircraft comes in its own specially designed, full-colour presentation box. In addition, a standing figure of Erich Hartmann himself dressed in winter flying gear is also available separately.

### TREEFROG TREASURES

Here at Treefrog Treasure we stock all of K&C's many series of 1:30 scale all-metal, hand-painted historical figures and diverse mixed-media models of aircraft, fighting vehicles and display items... in depth.

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Major Erich Hartmann  
(in winter flying gear)

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# KING & COUNTRY'S

# Return to Arnhem



2024 marks the 80th Anniversary of 'Operation Market Garden', the audacious Allied military plan to capture a number of bridges in Nazi occupied Holland using British and American airborne forces.

At the same time, a large British ground force, **XXX Corps**, would move up the highway connecting all of the bridges eventually reaching the small Dutch town of **ARNHEM**.

From there the Allies could then enter Germany itself, capture the industrial heartland of the Third Reich, the **RUHR**, and quite possibly end the war by **Christmas 1944**.

That was the plan... but it all came unstuck in that small Dutch town called... **ARNHEM**.

Back in 1994 **King & Country** began work on one of its most popular and longest-lasting WW2 ranges... '**ARNHEM '44**' based on the legendary exploits of the **British 1st Airborne Division** at the battle of Arnhem.

Since then K&C has designed and produced a huge range of fighting **British Airborne** soldiers along with a fleet of their Airborne **Jeeps**, **Bren Gun Carriers** and **Anti Tank Artillery**.

Not only that but we have also produced a number of '**Special Order**' 1:30 scale '**Horsa**' **Gliders** and **C47 'Dakotas'**.

## AIRBORNE REINFORCEMENTS

Now, to mark the **80th Anniversary** of the Arnhem Operation and the **30th Anniversary** of King & Country's **ARNHEM '44 / Operation Market Garden** series we are introducing **14** all-new British paratroopers in action.

These 14 figures are made up by a number of **2-figure sets** alongside several **individual soldiers**. To find out more details simply check out our website at:

[www.kingandcountry.com](http://www.kingandcountry.com)

If you are interested in dynamic and realistic 1:30 scale, all-metal, hand painted military miniature **British Airborne** soldiers be sure to come to...

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